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# THE TIMES

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45p

Western governments resist pressure for military action against Serbs

## Mourners flee mortar attack on Sarajevo children's funeral



The grandmother: Ruza Glavas is carried injured from the cemetery where three-year-old Vedrana was buried

The mother: Sveltana Glavas scrambles away from mortar fire at the funeral

BY ADAM LEBOR AND  
MICHAEL BINYON

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DESPITE world revulsion at yesterday's mortar attack on the mourners killed on the bus taking them from Sarajevo, Western governments ruled out military action against the Serbs or intervention to ensure a mass exodus of refugees.

Britain said military air strikes would only kill more innocent civilians, and France denied that it was studying the feasibility of a military strike against Serb forces.

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, accused the Muslims of carrying out the attack to put blame on the Serbs. Serb leaders ordered a general mobilisation in areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina under

their control to counter what they called an all-out offensive by Muslim and Croat forces. Sarajevo radio called on all armed citizens to report to defence units to help break the Serb siege.

The attack on the funeral of the two small children shot by snipers on Saturday drew widespread condemnation. Mourners, including 30 children from the orphanage, fled as mortars exploded only 100 yards from the cemetery. They had arrived clutching bunches of wild flowers. The cemetery is a gruesome place that was un-

used for decades, but victims of the war are now buried there every day. Scattered human bones provide macabre reminders that Sarajevo is running out of space to inter its dead.

As the family and friends of the two young Bosnians arrived a shell exploded and screams rang out. The mourners ducked behind the gravestones but another mortar exploded, sending razor-sharp metal shards flying through the air. Ruza Glavas, grandmother of one of the dead children, was hit in the right arm. Western jour-

lists rushed to bandage the wound. Doctors said later that they hoped to be able to save her arm.

The families of the two children had not even been able to attend the burials. Gravediggers had interred the bodies half an hour before the mourners arrived, because mortars were exploding increasingly close to the cemetery.

Sveltana Glavas, whose daughter Vedrana was shot last weekend, was distraught: "My daughter is dead and now my mother is injured."

Her mother, speaking after surgery at Sarajevo hospital, said that nobody had asked her permission to try to evacuate her grand-daughter to Germany. "They had no protection. If they had asked me I would never have let her go."

Forty-two other orphans, who left Sarajevo in the bus that was attacked, arrived in Germany yesterday. Fourteen are staying in a grim two-storey hostel on a country road outside Schönebeck, near Magdeburg. Journalists were not allowed to see them, but their cries could be heard throughout the building.

The orphans were said to be suffering from stress, shock and malnutrition. Waltraud Kasperczyk, head of the Catholic children's hostel, said the refugees were confused and many were unable to sleep. "The children are very stressed," she said. "The ones who can sleep do, but others simply have to be carried around because they start crying every time the nurse puts them down."

Frau Kasperczyk said four of the children had immediately been taken to hospital. One had been put on an

intravenous drip and the other three were suffering from severe stress.

"The smaller children have survived this better than the older ones, who were more aware of the experience," she said. "The only thing we can do for them at the moment is to try to keep them calm."

She said that some were only two months old.

Britain was among the countries to express horror at the callousness of the fighting. However, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, ruled out retaliatory strikes on Serb positions. He said

Continued on page 14, col 1

### Brutality in hospital

The care of mentally disordered criminals in high-security hospitals is to be re-examined after a report on Ashworth hospital had uncovered evidence of staff abuse. The report was published after a year-long enquiry and found that an "uncaring and demeaning attitude to patients" had given rise to a brutalising regime. Page 3

### Holiday palace

For as little as £10 per person per night, holiday-makers can rent one of two grace-and-favour apartments in Hampton Court Palace. Page 3

### BR under fire

British Rail services have attracted 66 per cent more complaints since the introduction of the Passengers' Charter. Page 6

### Cardinal dead

Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, who became a symbol of the Czechoslovakian struggle for religious freedom under communist rule, has died at 93. Page 7

### Mortgage plea

National Westminster Bank and the Woolwich Building Society have called for government help for the housing market. They both want the ceiling on mortgage tax relief doubled to £50,000. Page 15

## Guy's censured over deaths

BY ALISON ROBERTS

GUY'S Hospital in London was accused yesterday of failing to control the spread of an infection which has been involved in the deaths of two babies and forced the hospital to suspend admissions of children requiring intensive care.

Dean Bunn died on July 22, eight days after doctors identified the organism in another child. They did not know that Dean, who was 17 days old, had been infected with the organism *klebsiella aerogenes* until after his death and have apologised to his parents. The hospital said last night that *klebsiella* was a contributory factor in the baby's death, but the main

cause was congenital heart disease.

The identity of the second victim has not been disclosed. Nine other children have now been identified as having been infected with *klebsiella*.

Dean was buried yesterday at Hither Green cemetery, south London, amid claims that the family had not been told about the infection. Trevor Bunn said: "I don't know why they didn't tell us because they were giving us the bottom line all the way through because we knew he was seriously ill."

Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat MP whose South-west and Bermondsey constituency includes Guy's, called for an immediate report from the chief executive of the Guy's and Lewisham Hospital Trust into the deaths and the closure of the ninth floor intensive care ward last Thursday, two weeks after the first case was identified.

A spokesman for Guy's confirmed that Mr Hughes had been invited to meet Peter Griffiths, the chief executive, later this week.

Two of the nine sufferers are now clear of the organism, seven are carriers and remain in hospital, although so far they have not displayed

Continued on page 14, col 4

Lurking infection, page 2

## Lone negotiator keeps Ciskei protest bloodless

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN BISHO, CISKEI

A FIVE-HOUR confrontation on the veld with 30,000 cheering supporters of the African National Congress facing a line of guns and armoured cars ended miraculously without bloodshed at sunset last night.

The demonstrators danced and sang their way into the territory of the so-called independent black homeland of Ciskei as darkness fell. They had marched out of King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape at midday to deliver to Ciskei ministers a memorandum calling for the immediate installation of an intermediate administration at

Bisho to supervise the country's peaceful reintegration into South Africa. They had faced the thin line of Ciskei police and soldiers who were plainly preparing to fire into the crowd.

That the afternoon ended bloodless was due to the tireless shuttle diplomacy of Antonie Geldenhuys, the head of South Africa's National Peace Secretariat, accompanied by José Campino a UN observer monitoring this week's mass action to force Pretoria to yield to ANC demands for reform.

Striking millions, page 8

## Cleaners find used syringes in Olympic village

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

SCORES of used syringes have been found by cleaners in the flats housing athletes in the Olympic village. Competitors have also reported that copies of the *Underground Steroid Handbook* are being circulated, describing how to prepare a "doping cocktail" to boost performance.

Alexandre de Merode, president of the International Olympic Committee medical commission, which supervises drug-testing at the Games, said yesterday: "The cleaners have found syringes all over the rooms. I find this very serious. No one knows what these people may be injecting themselves with."

So far only one competitor, a member of the Chinese women's volleyball team,

Khalid Skah of Morocco was yesterday reinstated as the 10,000 metres winner. Kenya's Richard Chelimo had been given the gold after Skah was disqualified for having a pacemaker.

has tested positive for drugs at the Games, after more than 1,000 tests carried out by scientists working in shifts. She had been taking strychnine. However, many competitors are suspected of having used drugs in training, then stopped taking them before coming to Barcelona, or of having used undetectable substances in the village.

Gwen Torrence, the American sprinter, has accused two of the Olympic women's 100 metre medal winners of taking banned substances. Tessa Sanderson, the British javelin thrower, appearing in her fifth Olympics, has

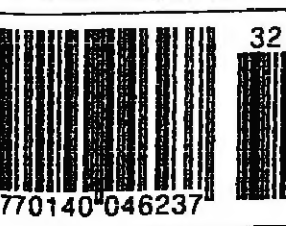
said: "There will be a lot of people taking drugs in these Games and they will pass the system."

Some competitors inject themselves, or each other, with B-12 vitamins which are perfectly permissible. However, Richard Palmer, the chief de mission of the British team, said yesterday: "The only legitimate reason for someone to have a syringe, as far as I know, is if that person is a diabetic."

There have been instances in recent years of competitors sharing needles, leading to one American athlete contracting Aids. Last week, in South Wales, a needle exchange scheme was publicised to persuade body builders to stop sharing needles.

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### TODAY IN THE TIMES

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Peter Barnard thinks that West Country blues could mark the start of better British holidays  
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page 1

#### LIVING FOR A COMEBACK



Elvis Presley lives on for Gail Brewer-Giorgio, who expects a comeback next January  
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#### GROWING OLD TOGETHER



Rachel Kelly has found a house that grows old and adapts with the owner  
**Life & Times**  
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OPENING IN EALING & MAIDSTONE SOON



## Lack of staff threatens casualty care, auditors say

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

STAFFING levels in hospital casualty departments are "well short" of recommended targets, leaving medical staff overstretched and patient care in jeopardy, according to a report from the National Audit Office published today.

Last year, the Joint Planning Advisory Committee, which advises the government on medical staffing, said there should be 72 new accident and emergency consultants in England within three years as a first step towards doubling the 200 consultant posts in that field by the year 2000.

The report said 20 such consultant posts remained unfilled because of a lack of suitable candidates. Separate research has shown that casualty consultants work an average 50-hour week, excluding time on call, the longest hours of any hospital specialty.

The audit office examined casualty departments at six hospitals: Leicester Royal Infirmary; University College Hospital, London; St James's University Hospital, Leeds; Leeds General Infirmary; Taunton and Somerset Hospital and Worcester Royal Infirmary.

The office concluded that consultant staffing in all six departments was often overstretched with inadequate

back-up from senior clinicians. "Increased provision of consultants and other experienced medical staff is essential as a means of improving accident and emergency services," it said.

At all departments, apart from Leicester, the number of doctors in relation to new patients fell short of those suggested by the British Association for Accident and Emergency Medicine.

In all cases, except Leicester, inexperienced senior house officers needing advice had to call in a consultant from home or seek advice by telephone. Many junior doctors found it hard to decide when to disturb the consultant, particularly when they knew that they would have to call the same person each time, the report said.

At Taunton and Somerset, until a few months ago, a lone consultant was regularly working more than 10 hours a day and was then on call for the rest of a 24-hour period and frequently called into the department.

The report suggests that as more casualty consultants are appointed, and rota systems be used to minimise times when inexperienced doctors lack immediate access to a senior doctor present in the department.

Worcester's accident and emergency department came in for particular criticism for failing to meet standards drawn up by professional bodies because it was on a split site. The department was over two miles from general specialties such as surgery and anaesthetics were based. "Professional organisations commented that this extent of split-site working jeopardised the treatment of accident and emergency patients," the report said.

The NAO report showed that blood samples had to be sent by taxi between the two sites, often delaying treatment.

An audit office report on casualty departments in Scotland found that consultants were often overstretched and junior staff were only nominally supervised. It called for a review by the Scottish Office and health boards of the kind of service that should be developed over the next decade.

The practice of allowing house officers to work without close supervision was "potentially unsafe", it said.

Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said that casualty services had improved markedly in recent years. "The report concludes that hospital A and E departments are 'well run on a day-to-day basis'," she said.

NHS Accident and Emergency Departments in England, Stationery Office, £7.15; NHS Accident and Emergency Departments in Scotland, Stationery Office, £7.15

## Infection lurks in operating theatres

Outbreaks such as that among young patients at Guy's Hospital are far from unusual, reports Alison Roberts

THE bacterium *Klebsiella*, which infected 11 children at Guy's Hospital, London, resulting in the deaths of two babies, is responsible for sporadic outbreaks of hospital infection.

Infectious outbreaks generally are relatively common in hospitals and a high percentage of the deaths of patients in intensive care are caused by infection which the debilitated body cannot fight. It is estimated that 10 per cent of patients in hospital are recovering from infections they have caught there.

*Klebsiella* exists in the normal flora of the stomach, flourishes in a moist environment and develops resistance to drugs in people who are receiving large quantities of antibiotics. The organism can be transmitted on the hands and may be found in food.

Professor Charles Hart, of the medical microbiology unit at Liverpool University, said: "Epidemics of *Klebsiella* have been reported all over the world. It is something that happens periodically in hospitals and it is usually no one's fault."

The King's Fund, the independent health policy think-tank, recommended earlier this year that every hospital should set up a committee to deal with infection and employ a control officer. Christine Pitt, of the fund, said that surveys of hospitals indicated that infection procedures were not good enough. She said: "The approach to monitoring of infection rates in hospitals is extremely variable and there is a tendency towards not very much being done about them."

"Hospitals are poor at collecting information. They should respond to outbreaks of infection by immediately tracking them back to the source and they should then share the lessons that they learn with everyone."

Doctors estimate that hospital infection costs the national health service well over £100 million a year. Doctors, nurses and other staff become carriers. Nearly 15 per cent of gynaecological patients become infected after surgery and more than 9 per cent of patients become infected after urological and general surgery.

Babies die, page 1



Baroness Blatch: "Schools have vital role in promoting spiritual development"

## Schools given a year to reform religious syllabus

By Matthew D'Ancona, Education Correspondent

SCHOOLS must implement mainly Christian religious education syllabuses within a year of the forthcoming education act or face intervention from Whitehall, local education authorities were warned yesterday.

The new deadline underlines the government's determination to guarantee a Christian framework for children's spiritual growth in the classroom, following widespread concern that authorities offer only bland multi-faith lessons. Baroness Blatch, the education minister, said: "Schools have a vital role in promoting pupils' spiritual and moral development. We are determined to re-emphasise the importance of religious education and the moral and spiritual dimension of the curriculum."

A consultative document on religious education outlining

the proposals in last week's white paper has been sent to LEAs, all of which are expected to speed up adoption of syllabuses that reflect "the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian". Two-thirds have yet to revise their arrangements.

Schools that opt out of local authority control will be able to hand-pick any syllabus adopted by an LEA and will be given increasing representation on local standing advisory councils on religious education as more schools become grant-maintained.

The fresh impetus given to old-fashioned religious education reflects pressure applied by groups including Lady Olga Maitland's Christian Call, as well as the resolve of John Patten, the education secretary, a committed Catholic who has emphasised the

moral aspect of education since he took office.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that the consultative document, with its criticisms of LEAs, "does not meet the needs of our increasingly multi-cultural society".

Muslim groups called for greater sensitivity to Islamic interest. Tariq Sattar, chairman of the Muslim Parliament's education committee, said special classes should be available for Muslim children, on top of ordinary mainstream classes. Laurie Rosenberg, executive director of education at the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said a shift toward a nationally agreed religious syllabus would threaten representation of non-Christian faiths.

Bryan Appleyard, page 10  
Leading article, page 11

## Scientists to deploy satellite on a string

Atlantis will test whether wire can conduct electricity in Earth's ionosphere, says Nigel Hawkes

The space shuttle Atlantis last night prepared for a space first—deploying a satellite on the end of a string.

Controllers at the European Space Agency were meanwhile puzzling over what to do about Eureka, a satellite released by Atlantis on Sunday, which remains in a precariously low orbit. The decision to try to boost it into its correct orbit was deferred while ESA studied data to try to discover what went wrong.

If nothing is done, Eureka and its load of crystals, seeds, shrimp eggs, and bacteria will re-enter the atmosphere and burn up. The original plan was for the satellite to be left in orbit until next spring, when it would be picked up by another shuttle mission. This will be threatened unless it can be boosted from 276 miles up to the intended 320-mile orbit.

Ground controllers fired thrusters on Sunday to put Eureka into the right orbit, but turned them off after six minutes when it appeared that the satellite was tilted in the wrong direction. Controllers at ESA might fire the thrusters again in a few days, Daria Robinson, a spokeswoman said.

Nasa, the US space agency, was uncertain exactly what would happen when the Italian Space Agency's tethered satellite is released from Atlantis. The idea is to unravel the half-ton sphere on the end of a cable about as thick as a shoelace, and see whether a wire stretched through Earth's ionosphere can generate electricity. If so, the technique might provide a cheap and robust alternative to solar panels or even be used to propel spacecraft.

As Atlantis orbited 184 miles above Earth, the tether was expected to ripple, sway like a pendulum, bounce like a yo-yo and swing in circles like a skipping rope. Among the dangers is that the satellite, instead of unwinding slowly back and forth as planned, could swing wildly and collide with Atlantis. If the shuttle gets into danger, the crew can activate explosives to cut the satellite loose and fly away.

"We expect to see some things about flying satellites attached to tethers that nobody's really thought about," said commander Loren Shriver, who spent two years training for all the flying manoeuvres he may have to make to steady the tether. "Or at least if they've thought about them, it's hard to describe the kind of motion that we might see."

Concern was such that Nasa administrator Daniel Goldin ordered an independent safety review of the mission to assure himself the risks were not too great. The study concluded they were not and the mission was launched last Friday from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Yacht rescue foiled by radio 'chit-chat'

The organisers of Cowes Week yesterday criticised yachtsmen for frustrating the efforts of rescuers to save one of two competitors who died in gale-force winds by clogging an emergency radio channel with chatter. John Green, chairman of the Cowes Combined Clubs, said: "I deplore people misusing any of the radio channels, particularly channel 16. It is an emergency channel and it is very wrong for people to chit-chat on it." A crew that went to the aid of Brian Walton, 35, of Washington, Tyne and Wear, who was washed overboard from the yacht *Mefisto*, was said to have been hampered in calling the coastguard by others using the emergency channel.

Mr Green said: "It is maddening to find people discussing their dinner parties and who they are going dancing with, but there is nothing we can do about it. It is the responsibility of the Home Office." Sue Hardwick, a spokeswoman for the regatta, said: "The two accidents were very unfortunate. There is no need to change the racing. Monday's conditions were not ideal but they were not truly horrendous." Dr Catherine Acland, 30, of Compton Abbas, Dorset, died after striking her head on the yacht *Valdemar*. Racing resumed yesterday as scheduled.

Race report and picture, page 22

### Teenagers charged

Three teenagers were remanded in custody yesterday by magistrates in Croydon, south London, accused of murdering Rukhshah Aramesh, an Afghan refugee. Paul Hannon, 17, of Thornton Heath, south London, and two juveniles, aged 15 and 16, are jointly charged with murdering Mr Aramesh, who died on Sunday, two days after he was allegedly attacked on a petrol station forecourt near his home in Thornton Heath by a gang of more than 15 men. All three also face a charge of violent disorder and the 16-year-old faces two charges of grievous bodily harm with intent. The two juveniles were remanded until August 11 and Mr Hannon was remanded in custody until the same date. No application was made for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

### Boating victims found

Three bodies were recovered yesterday by rescue workers searching for seven victims of two separate boating accidents in the Irish republic. The bodies of two young men were discovered by police divers on Blessington Lake, co. Wicklow, shortly after 5pm. They were close to an upturned dinghy found the previous day after the men and two companions went missing while camping near the lake. The search was continuing for the other two men. All four were from Dublin and were aged from 18 to 21. Earlier, the body of a schoolboy aged 15 from Camille, co. Wexford, was recovered from the estuary of Waterford harbour. A search was continuing for his brother, aged 13, and father, also believed to have drowned while fishing from their 18ft cabin cruiser.

### Dead soldier named

The first British soldier to be shot dead by the IRA in Belfast in four years was named yesterday as Damien Shackleton, 24, a Guardsman from Blackburn, Lancashire, who was married with a son, 4. He died on Monday night after being hit in the shoulder and neck by gunmen who held a family hostage in their home and used it to ambush a patrol in the New Lodge area in the north of the city. Cecil Walker, the Ulster Unionist MP for Belfast North, described as sickening graffiti that appeared in the area awarding "Olympic" medals to those who took part in the attack, another shooting, on Monday night and the car bomb attack in the city centre that injured 21 and damaged property worth millions of pounds.

### Moore gallery dropped

Trustees and directors of the Henry Moore Foundation have dropped their fight to build a gallery at the artist's home. The foundation said yesterday that it would not appeal over the refusal of planning permission for a sculpture gallery at Perry Green, the 70-acre estate in Hertfordshire. However, the foundation will continue to argue for its proposals to build a study centre and make other alterations, for which permission was also refused. Mary Moore, the sculptor's only child, has campaigned against the foundation's plans from the outset. She argued that the proposed buildings were neither in keeping with her father's wishes nor did they fit in with the rest of the estate. An environment department inspector is due to hear the appeals next month.

### Clue to girl's killer



Police believe that the mystery man whom schoolgirl Helen Gorrie, left, had arranged to meet on the night of her murder may have been on the run. Yesterday, officers interviewed several men without success, after finding a diary entry detailing the 15-year-old's plans for a late drive with "John", whom police believe to be a teenager. Helen was last seen on Friday. Her body was found near a community centre at Horndean, Hampshire, on Saturday.

### LSE bid condemned

The London Residuary Body condemned the London School of Economics' offer for County Hall yesterday, saying that it should be rejected in favour of a Japanese group's bid to convert it into a hotel. The body, set up to dispose of the disbanded Greater London Council's assets, said that the school's £65 million bid was "not worthy of serious consideration". The school's offer is conditional on the sale of its present home in Aldwych. The body said that the LSE's estimate that it would raise £100 million from the sale was "highly speculative". The school said yesterday that its bid had been prepared at short notice and it had not been possible to produce an unconditional offer. It said its scheme for a new European university was "in the national interest".

### Cancer drug hope

A discovery that could lead to the development of a new treatment for breast cancer has been made by scientists at the Royal Marsden cancer hospital in London. The researchers have found that patients treated with the drug Tamoxifen, one of the most effective existing cancer treatments, produce a protein in the healthy cells of the breast that inhibits the growth of cancer cells. The protein, known as Transforming Growth Factor Beta 1, appears to be equally effective against different types of breast cancer. The researchers say in the American journal *Cancer Research*. However, the development of a synthetic version of the protein that can be given to cancer sufferers will take several years.

### Hodgson leads chess

Julian Hodgson, of London, the reigning British chess champion and a grandmaster, holds the joint lead in this year's championships in Plymouth, Devon, after beating Simon Ansell, of Oxford, in the second round. Also unbeaten after two rounds are Jonathan Mestel, Aaron Summerscale, Simon Bibby and Susan Arkell.



Rifkind: pleased with decision to continue

## Germans hold fire as EFA returns to drawing board

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

GERMANY promised yesterday to stay in the development phase of the £22 billion European Fighter Aircraft programme, after compromises were offered to Bonn by the project's other partners, Britain, Italy and Spain.

Although Volker Rühle, the German defence minister, confirmed Bonn's intention to withdraw from the production stage of the aircraft, there was hope last night that a four-nation solution might be found by the end of the year.

Germany is contractually committed to spend more than £2 billion as its share of the development programme. Until yesterday's confirmation, the Germans had been hinting privately that they might withdraw from the development phase, although they would have incurred strong financial penalties.

Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, said afterwards: "We are very pleased with our German colleague's agreement to continue the development phase." Following a British initiative at a meeting of the four national defence ministers in Madrid, air force chiefs from the four countries are to carry out a review of EFA by October 31.

A steering committee represented by EFA companies from all four countries has

also begun a three-month study into costings of revised versions of the existing aircraft.

British sources indicated that they expect the four air chiefs to report back in October that aircraft is still needed because of the potential threat from the proliferation of sophisticated fighter aircraft and increasing instability in many parts of the world.

Julian Garcia Vargas, the Spanish defence minister, said the four had effectively agreed to work on redesigning of the plane. He added that Spain's economic circumstances would not allow it to proceed to the production stage of the project in its present form.



Rifkind: pleased with decision to continue

## MPs warn Yard on King's Cross crime

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

TWO London MPs have given a warning to Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, that vice, drug-dealing and violent crime in the area around King's Cross station are growing beyond the resources of local police and that the district could get out of control.

The MPs want Sir Peter to give more Scotland Yard help to the local police divisions. The letter comes after one police operation in the area led to 106 arrests for drug dealing and another last month to 100 motorists being stopped in one week for kerb-crawling. Despite those raids, police say that drug-dealing remains common and that "crack", a cocaine derivative, is increasingly being sold. There are also 80 to 100 prostitutes regularly working in the area.

In their letter, Frank Dobson, Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras, and Christopher Smith, Labour MP for Islington South and Finsbury, said they believed that crime in the area was too widespread and complex for local officers to contain it. The MPs, who have met local police commanders, said the time had come for the Yard to accept the area as a Metropolitan problem.

The MPs said they recognised that action by other agencies was needed "if the

tide of violence and harassment is to be turned back and the threat to health lifted". However, a large amount of what offended local people was plain basic crime, which they rightly wanted to see halted.

Mr Dobson said yesterday that something had to be done or King's Cross would become as dangerous as the centre of some American cities. Used condoms and syringes were left scattered in the area, prostitutes were being used as drug couriers, one shop was openly selling paraphernalia for taking cocaine and another shopkeeper was threatened when he tried to clear people away from outside his premises.

Chief Supt Paul Green, commander at Holborn police station, which covers part of the area, said he welcomed the letter because it would bring greater awareness of the district's problems. Residents whose lives were regularly blighted were often forgotten.

He said figures for crack seizures were rising significantly and arrests for cocaine and heroin were also increasing. Flooding the area with police could be done only for short periods. Police were working with the community and other agencies, and the area would continue to receive as much police attention as possible, he said.



## Staff brutality puts future of secure hospitals in doubt

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government is to re-examine the care of mentally disordered criminals in high-security hospitals after a report on Ashworth Hospital uncovered evidence of brutality and abuse by staff.

The report, published yesterday after a year-long enquiry into provision at Ashworth, on Merseyside, described the brutalising regime at the hospital arising from an "uncaring and demeaning attitude to patients" that led to "harassment and some physical bullying". Although only three complaints of maltreatment were investigated in detail, the report implied that there was justification in more than 100 complaints submitted. Doctors as well as nurses were criticised.

A nurse and a ward manager were found guilty of gross misconduct and dismissed a fortnight ago after using a pig's head, with a tie around its neck and a thermometer in its mouth, to taunt female patients.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, who headed the enquiry and is chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission, said in a covering letter to Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, that it could not be

assumed that the disturbing state of affairs at Ashworth was unique. A review of the whole high-security hospital system was needed, he said.

The government is to announce a review of the hospitals today. It is expected to consider whether the 1,700 high-security beds in England's three special hospitals, Broadmoor, Rampton and Ashworth, can be reduced, with more places provided at lower security hospitals elsewhere.

Many of those in the top security hospitals do not need to be there. A fifth of patients at Ashworth have not been



Sir Louis: urges review of special hospitals

found guilty of any crime. Last year, Dr Pamela Taylor, director of medical services for the special hospitals, said that, of 250 patients whom doctors said were fit to move on, only 100 could be transferred because there was nowhere for them to go.

Places in medium-security units are available for up to two years, but many patients need longer-term care in a secure environment. Last year, a health department committee of enquiry into services for mentally disordered offenders recommended that the number of medium-security places be increased from 600 to 1,500. Last autumn the government agreed to raise the number to 1,000 and allocated £80 million to fund the extra places. The committee was headed by Dr John Reed, who is also expected to lead the new review.

The committee, whose final report is due at the end of the year, also recommended that district health authorities should take over the funding of patients in high-security care to give them an incentive to move patients on. At present, the three special hospitals are funded centrally.

The hospitals have been criticised for more than a decade for being too big, too crowded and too isolated, professionally and geographically. The Boynton enquiry into Rampton in 1980, after nurses were convicted of assaulting patients, condemned many features of its organisation and practice. A report on Broadmoor by the Health Advisory Service in 1988 said its pervasive culture was "non-therapeutic".

Ian Byrnes, legal director of Mind, the mental health group, said there was an urgent need to "work up alternative means of providing for patients who need high-security care to protect their interests and rights".

David Blunkett, Labour's health spokesman, said the review should consider the whole structure and management of the special hospital and prison medical service to avoid the "narrow perspective" of previous enquiries.

## Palace revolution for tourists

Holidaymakers who stay at a royal palace will be carefully vetted, reports Harvey Elliott

TWO apartments in Hampton Court Palace are to be rented out to holidaymakers for as little as £10 per person per night.

One is in Fish Court, in the Tudor part of the palace. It was probably used by kitchen staff for hundreds of years before becoming a grace-and-favour residence.

The other is a rambling, down-at-heel Georgian mansion first built as a kitchen and laundry but converted into a house with a private walled garden. The properties are to be refurbished at a cost of about £100,000 each before the first guests move in early next year.

Anyone who rents them will be expected to wander in the grounds after day trips. They will have unlimited access to the rest of the palace during opening hours.

Potential guests will, however, be carefully vetted. David Beeston, chief executive of Historic Royal Palaces, said: "We have many priceless antiques and valuable pieces both inside and out, so we will ensure that the holidaymakers are as carefully security checked as our own staff." The agency was set up three years ago to run and market five royal palaces.

"This is an experiment and we will be watching carefully before we decide whether to extend the scheme," said Mr Beeston.

Hampton Court has more than 1,000 rooms, only 100 of which are open to the public. Hundreds more are empty, many of them in disrepair, following a decline in the number of grace-and-favour tenancies that has left fewer than 50 residents on the estate.

The move into holiday lettings, which has been approved by the Queen, is intended to provide additional income as the royal palaces are put on a sound commercial footing. Already admission prices for the 500,000 visitors to the public rooms at Hampton Court have risen to £5.90 a head, and with greatly increased income from flower shows, shops, catering and special events.



To Rent: Two superb holiday homes in Hampton Court Palace available in the new year after restoration work.

No 95 above: A large Georgian mansion built originally as a kitchen and laundry but converted into a private house.

● Accommodation: Can sleep eight in three twin-bedded rooms and one double-bedded room. Spacious lounge, dining room, kitchen, study and entrance lobby.

● Price: Varies from £220 for a four-night break in the winter to £251 for Christmas or New Year weeks - £10-£20 per person per night.

● Attractions: Superb walled garden containing ancient church font and fine, mature wisteria. Centrally located, close to security gate but with easy access to palace gardens.

● Drawbacks: Small part of house occupied by Palace staff.

No 43a right: A two-storey Mews cottage overlooking a Tudor passageway used by kitchen staff for well over 300 years, then as a grace and favour apartment.

● Accommodation: Will sleep six guests in two single bedrooms, one twin bedded room and one double bedded room.

● Price: Varies from £240 for four nights in the winter to £275 for the Christmas and New Year weeks or £10-£20 per person per night.

● Attractions: Overlooks magnificent gardens and restored Tudor kitchens.

● Drawbacks: Unsuitable for wheelchairs or the infirm, because of two narrow flights of stairs. Reports of ghosts seen at night in surrounding courtyards.

the government's £10 million annual support for the palaces is being reduced each year.

The apartments will be rented through the Landmark Trust, a charity that prides itself on tackling "cases too desperate, troublesome or unfashionable for anyone else". The trust already owns 139 properties throughout the country that it rents on a weekly or fortnightly basis to some of the 15,000 people who buy its handbook - "not brochure, please" - each year.

The trust maintains that

anyone booking the Hampton Court properties will be able to appreciate the palace far more by living there, however briefly, than if they merely visited.

"They can study it at leisure, be there early and late, in all lights and weathers and get the feel of its surroundings," it says.

Although the apartments will be furnished with materials in harmony with the character of the buildings, "they will not be luxurious. We do not wish, and cannot afford, to preserve our buildings as dead objects."

the trust says. "They are occupied by human beings who cook and wash and use the rooms."

The trust insisted last night that Hampton Court, built in 1514 by Cardinal Wolsey and used by generations of kings and queens, would be treated no differently from its other properties. Furniture, it said, would be "old and good, unpretentious and carefully chosen". Rugs would be on the floors and there would be plenty of books on the history of the palace and surrounding area.

## Longleat holiday village approved

By JOHN YOUNG

A PROPOSED £80 million holiday village on the Marquess of Bath's Longleat estate in Wiltshire was given outline planning consent yesterday by Michael Howard, the environment secretary.

The development, by Center Parcs, originally a Dutch company but now owned by Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, will be the third of its kind in Britain. The others are in Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, and The Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

The project is the idea of the present Lord Bath, who succeeded to the title on the death of his father in June. The late marquess was said to oppose the plan.

Conservationists were also vehemently opposed to the scheme, and Michael Heseltine, the then environment secretary, intervened by calling a public enquiry last September before West Wiltshire district council could make a decision on the application. The enquiry took place last January.

Although the development will not impinge upon Longleat House and its immediate setting, objectors claimed it would attract an unacceptable number of visitors to an area already saturated by tourists.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England said yesterday that Mr Howard's approval of the scheme was a damaging signal that the government was unwilling to protect the countryside from the worst excesses of the tourist industry. Tony Burton, the council's senior planner, said: "The proposed holiday village flatly contradicts government policies for protecting this outstandingly beautiful countryside, and opens the way for the tourist industry to ride roughshod over planning policies."

Work on the development, which will occupy 400 acres of Ascombe Wood, is expected to start soon and, according to Center Parcs, will create more than 1,000 permanent jobs.

The deal with Center Parcs is reputed to be worth £10 million, which, Lord Bath says, will be used for the upkeep of the estate and to avoid selling art treasures.

## 'Friendly' assistant sacked by store

A SHOP assistant described by her boss as eccentric for the way she dressed and spoke, claimed yesterday that she was sacked from her job for calling customers and staff "babe" and "darling".

Anne Sabine, 46, of Reading, Berkshire, said Edward Jackson, managing director of Jackson and Sons department store in Reading, called her into his office and said she was "upsetting his ladies" by the way she spoke to people. He asked her when she wanted to go and she said immediately.

Mrs Sabine, who has five children and usually dresses flamboyantly in bright colours, said she received two formal warnings for being too friendly to customers and was finally told to leave two and a half weeks after receiving a stern letter from Mr Jackson.

The letter read: "The use of words such as 'babe' and 'darling' are strictly forbidden and unless you immediately desist, your employment will be brought to an end." A week later came the summons from Mr Jackson to arrange her leaving date.

Mr Jackson said yesterday: "Within ten minutes of her starting work, my personnel assistant came to see me and said, 'Who is that woman who has just called me babe?' She seemed totally incapable of changing her ways. I am afraid the simple answer is she is an eccentric."

But Mrs Sabine said: "I have never been sacked before and to sack me for the way I communicate - I have always been praised for my work - is ridiculous."

She said she had years of retail experience, including a post as a manager in London's Oxford Street, and had references praising her skills.

## Riot-torn prison to be put out to tender

By RONALD FAIR

STRANGEWAYS prison in Manchester is to be privatised, the Home Office confirmed yesterday. Tender documents will be issued later this year for the private management of the jail, which is undergoing a £62 million refurbishment programme after being wrecked by rioting two years ago.

Brian Caton, vice-chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said yesterday that was a scandalous misuse of public money to privatise jails and put money into the hands of profiteers. The refurbished Strangeways ought to be a monument to the future of the prison service as defined by the Woolf enquiry. "It seems it will end up a monument to the government's insistence on market forces, even to the extent of earning profit out of the demise of people," he said.

The Wolds remand centre in Humberside is the only prison to have been contracted out to the private sector. Tenders for Blakenhurst prison in Hereford and Worcester have been invited. Both are new institutions. Strangeways will be the first established prison to undergo "market testing" and the first for which the prison service has been invited to tender. The Group 4 security firm won the Wolds contract.

Strangeways was wrecked during 25 days of rioting in 1990, when it was severely overcrowded by 1,200 prisoners in its 744 cells. Four wings and the hospital are now occupied by up to 350 inmates and another five wings are planned to reopen next year.

The Home Office insists that market testing is the best way of discovering the most efficient system for running a prison. It says the aim is to link quality with value for money, and not necessarily to find the cheapest bid.

## Judge tells Allan jurors to be fair

THE judge in the Jani Allan libel case against Channel 4 yesterday told jurors that any damages they awarded her should be fair and reasonable.

"Bear in mind what you know money can buy in 1992," Mr Justice Potts said during his summing up. The jury retires to consider its verdict today.

The judge said the jury should not be overawed or intimidated by the attention the case had received. "Jurors try cases as important as this, if I may say so, daily - such as cases where the liberty of the subject is concerned. Cases which do not attract the publicity that this case has attracted."

He added: "Keep your eyes on the central issue. Did Jani Allan have an adulterous affair with Terre Blanche or did she not? As to this, one thing is certain. Somebody has told lies in this court."

Miss Allan, 40, a South African journalist living at Hampton Court, Surrey, is suing Channel 4 for damages over the film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*, which she says falsely por-

trayed her as a "lady of easy virtue" who had an affair with Eugene Terre Blanche, the leader of the far-right Afrikaner Resistance Movement. Channel 4 says the programme did not suggest an affair, but if it had, the allegation would be justified.

During the trial the court has heard defence witness Linda Shaw, Miss Allan's former flatmate, say she looked through a keyhole and saw Miss Allan and Mr Terre Blanche having sex.

The judge said that if the jury decided there was a libel, it would have to consider its effect on Miss Allan's position, standing and reputation and the upset, anxiety and embarrassment caused to her. Any award it might make was not to punish Channel 4 but to compensate and vindicate Miss Allan.

If the jurors found Channel 4 had failed to justify its central allegation that Miss Allan and Mr Terre Blanche had an affair, but concluded they had a relationship "falling short of actual sexual intercourse", they could reflect that in any damages award.

Mr Wallwork said: "It needs to be discussed because what we are doing at present is perverse - a well person has to die before a sick person can live. The step from mouse to pig is now a realistic prospect, it is no longer a pipe dream."

## Patients may be given pigs' organs

GENETICALLY engineered pigs could soon be providing a source of organs for transplant into human patients. Cambridge scientists will tell an international conference in Paris later this month.

The pigs, altered so that their organs are not instantly rejected by human recipients, could help to meet the insatiable demand for transplant organs, according to Dr David White of the department of surgery at Cambridge University.

In future, transplant units such as those at the Papworth Hospital, near Cambridge, which are collaborating in the research, may have their own herds of pigs from which they will harvest organs for transplant.

The Cambridge scientists believe they have found a way of avoiding the very rapid rejection process that oc-

It was either pigs or kangaroos, and scientists opted for pigs. Nigel Hawkes on a new idea for prolonging human life

curs if animal organs are put into human beings. Normally such organs go black and die within a quarter of an hour as the recipients recognise them as foreign tissue and reject them.

By incorporating human cell surface proteins into animal models using genetic engineering techniques, the Cambridge scientists have shown that this extreme form of rejection may be avoidable. Normal rejection, such as occurs in human to human transplants, will still occur, but that is controllable by drugs.

So far, the animals used have been mice and the experiments have not involved human subjects, but Dr White is optimistic that the

technique will work in real patients. "Basically, what we do is to trick the human immune system into accepting the transplanted organs, and cell culture experiments suggest it will work," he said yesterday.

Pigs provided the best source of organs because they were roughly the same size as humans. "In terms of size it has to be either pigs or kangaroos," he said, "and the physiology of the pig looks about right."

It will be at least two years before the first organs are ready. That is the time taken for the first transgenic pig, created by manipulation of the fertilised egg, to grow up and produce litters from which the organs could be

harvested. "It will be a while before we are ready to go," Dr White said. "Transplants are highly successful and quite routine now - and most people who get a new heart or liver return to normal life. It is a victim of its own success because lots of people want transplants and there aren't enough donors. We now have, in theory, the means to produce organs for transplant into a human being."

Dr White and Papworth's top transplant surgeon, John Wallwork, feel the time is right for a public debate on the ethics of using animal organs.

Mr Wallwork said: "It needs to be discussed because what we are doing at present is perverse - a well person has to die before a sick person can live. The step from mouse to pig is now a realistic prospect, it is no longer a pipe dream."

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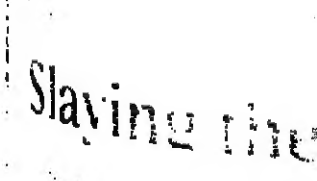
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**Mackay  
tough  
controls**

Shut the door  
debt collected



*(continued)*



# Government urges car park operators to improve security

CAR park operators were urged yesterday to tighten security after a report criticised their failure to introduce measures to cut the theft of vehicles.

The big operators, including National Car Parks, London Underground and British Rail, are to be called to the Home Office and told to introduce tough crime prevention measures in car parks. The campaign will be backed by a "secured car parks" scheme to be launched next month. Those car parks that meet a number of security standards, including 24-hour closed-circuit television surveillance, regular security patrols and good quality lighting, will be given a gold or silver award.

In an effort to encourage the public to make more demands on operators, who in some areas have a virtual

monopoly on parking, insurance companies are to be pressed to introduce penalty clauses that would make motorists liable for some of the loss if they parked their vehicle in a park with sub-standard security.

Michael Jack, a Home Office minister, said: "Car thieves can have rich pickings in poorly managed car parks. In some areas almost half all recorded theft of and from cars takes place in car parks." He said the level of crime was not acceptable and motorists had a right to expect a minimum level of security for the fees they paid.

A Home Office study of 14 car parks in Marylebone, central London, found that Chiltern Street park had the worst record for theft from vehicles. It had a crime rate of 21 thefts from cars per 100 spaces in 1991. Portman

Richard Ford reports that an ever increasing number of motorists are falling prey to vehicle thieves

Square had 16.3 and there were 15.6 at Cavendish Square and Bilton Towers parks. The rates are greater than, or at least equivalent to, any reported from high-crime housing estates.

The car park at Redbridge Underground station in Essex had the worst record for theft of and from cars in 1991, with crime rates of 16.7 and 22 per 100 spaces respectively. The survey of stations at the east end of the Central Line and BR Kent Link lines between London and Sevenoaks and London and Dartford also found that thefts of vehicles at BR's Barnhurst station in Bexleyheath were 16.7 per 100, while thefts from vehi-

cles at Chislehurst station were 21.4 per 100 spaces. Other Underground stations with poor records were Buckhurst Hill and South Woodford in Essex.

The Home Office study said unmanned car parks presented the highest risk, with long-stay commuter car parks especially vulnerable. Manned exits helped to control car crime, but in multi-storey car parks they had little effect on theft from cars.

The presence of businesses near car parks and intensive staffing also helped to cut crime.

The British Crime Survey found that 116,000 of total car thefts and 180,000 thefts from cars in England and

## THEFTS FROM LONDON CAR PARKS

Central London car parks	Thefts per 100 parking spaces	No of spaces	Design	System
Chiltern Street	21.0	395	MS/UG	MEB
Portman Square	16.3	443	MS/UG	MEB
Cavendish Square	15.6	545	UG	MEB
Bilton Towers	15.6	180	UG	MEB
Wellback Street	15.6	392	MS	MEB
Harley Street	12.4	380	UG	MEB
Bryanston Street	10.6	310	MS	MEB
Cipstone Street	4.8	350	UG	MEB
Cramar Street	2.0	200	S	BP
Carburton Street	1.6	85	UG	MEB
Selridge	0.3	650	MS	BP
Barners Street	0.0	110	MS	BP
Sanderson House	0.0	75	UG	MEB/BP
Churchill Hotel	0.0	51	UG	BP

Key: MS = Multi-storey; UG = Underground; S = Surface car park; MEB = Manned exit barriers; BP = Block parking (ie. attendants park some or all cars). Source: Home Office

Wales occurred in car parks.

In the Metropolitan police district, 14 per cent of reported thefts of and 13 per cent of thefts from vehicles took place in car parks in 1990.

The government's move to focus attention on car park-

ing facilities comes after pressure from the Consumers' Association and the Royal Automobile Association, which claim that the public pay a high price for a poor service. Ministers are understood

to be against legislating to provide easier redress and compensation for motorists who suffer personal injury have their cars stolen as a result of inadequate security in public car parks. The Consumers' Association believes that notices stating that car parks do not accept liability in respect of any loss or theft from vehicles are unreasonable under the Unfair Contract Terms Act, but it admits that to gain compensation a person has to prove negligence, which is difficult.

The AA and RAC want car parking covered by the Fair Trading Act. In 1985 the Consumers' Association referred NCP to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on the grounds that the company's dominance of commercial car parking was against the public interest. The referral failed on techni-

cal grounds when the Office of Fair Trading ruled that in leasing car parking space, NCP was not selling goods or providing a service.

Burglaries and vandalism at petrol stations are costing an estimated £12 million a year, according to a survey published yesterday. The most widespread crime was motorists driving off without paying for petrol, card fraud and the use of forged bank notes.

A poll of 604 forecourts carried out by Gallup found that 84 per cent had experienced some form of crime during the past 12 months and 15 per cent had suffered a robbery. Half the robberies had involved an assault on staff.

Preventing Car Crime in Car Parks (Home Office Police Department, London)

## Mackay proposes tough statutory controls on bailiffs

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor's Department has called for tough statutory controls on bailiffs because of concern about the tactics of some private operators.

A department consultation paper published yesterday says regulation of civil enforcement agents such as sheriffs, county court bailiffs and certificated and other private bailiffs is patchy.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, wants minimum standards of competence and conduct, underpinned by disciplinary sanctions. He is inviting views on the best way to achieve a new regulatory framework. He believes all civil enforcement agencies should be subject to

formal controls over their appointment.

The report says: "It is not always clear where the lines of accountability lie. So at one end of the spectrum, county court bailiffs are subject to a high level of control by the department on behalf of the district judge at all stages of their careers. Private bailiffs are subject to no formal controls on their organisation and management."

The review will consider the law on certain aspects of bailiffs' work: use of force, controls over fees, what goods they may seize, the procedure for seizing goods, the time when this may be done, and how the sale of goods may be carried out. An important

question will be how much the state should be involved in regulating bailiffs' activities.

Widening the state's role would place an extra burden on the taxpayer. Alternatively, the state could give up its role as employer of county court bailiffs and introduce such arrangements as requiring all civil enforcement agents to belong to a professional body with regulatory powers over members.

But the paper says the state has a duty to set up an appropriate system of organisation and management to regulate debt-enforcement agencies. It must "ensure a credible system of enforcement is available to creditors through which they can enforce their debts". It must also set by statute the rights and duties of creditors, debtors and civil enforcement agencies in key areas of their work.

The paper, on which comments are invited by October 30, canvasses seven possible options for change: retaining current organisational arrangements but reforming the governing law; leaving sheriffs alone but reforming the civil enforcement agents; improving or extending regulation of bailiffs by extending the court certification procedure that applies to some enforcement agents; self-regulation by professional bodies recognised by a minister; an executive agency employing county court bailiffs; an executive agency that could ensure proper standards of conduct and discipline across all kinds of enforcement agents; a regulatory body set up by statute under the control of a board.

The sheriffs have a statutory monopoly to seize goods to enforce High Court judgments and orders and to enforce county court judgments and orders of more than £5,000. The county court bailiffs have a statutory monopoly over seizing goods to enforce county court judgments and orders up to £2,000 and, with sheriffs, share responsibility for orders between £2,000 and £5,000.

Certificated bailiffs have a statutory monopoly to seize goods for rent arrears. Magistrates' courts and various public bodies such as the Inland Revenue have statutory powers to seize goods for unpaid fines, rates and taxes. They may use private bailiffs to do this work.

## 'Shut the door on debt collectors'

Tim Jones reports on claims by consumer groups that bailiffs trick their way into homes and reject reasonable repayments

TWO of Britain's main consumer watchdogs yesterday criticised the Lord Chancellor's proposed review and said that the system of using bailiffs to collect debts should be abolished.

Every week, offices of the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux receive complaints from people who have suffered at the hands of bailiffs.

Nichola Simpson, the association's head of policy and communication, said: "We are very concerned by the use of deception practised by bailiffs to gain entry into houses and by their refusal to negotiate payments by realistic instalments."

"Some gain entry by pretending they are from the council or by saying that they want to use the lavatory. Others claim illegally that they can gain entry into properties without the permission of the tenant."

Ms Simpson said that debt enforcement procedures should take place in one court and different mechanisms for debt collection, such as orders against earnings or benefits, should be implemented. "Eventually, the whole practice of employing bailiffs should be abolished."

The National Consumer Campaign today launches another attack on gobbledge with National Plain English Day, putting emphasis on consumer jargon.

Chrissie Maher, the working-class Liverpoolian grandmother who founded and directs the campaign, said: "The recession means that businesses are going bankrupt and houses are being repossessed from classes of people to whom this has not happened before. The stigma is such that they are ashamed to ask their friends what the difficult legal jargon means."

Members of the campaign have invited MPs, councils and trade unions to join their demonstration in Parliament Square this afternoon and to hand out orange gobbledge stickers that can be attached to documents with small print, long sentences, unintelligible jargon or other traps for the consumer. Leaf-



Maher: stigma of asking for help

lets about housing, mortgages, insurance, medicine and other consumer goods are the main culprits.

Since Mrs Maher founded the campaign 13 years ago, it has consistently made headlines, and now makes enough money to support a staff of ten. They raise funds by advising and helping firms and official bodies to write their documents in jargon-free

English. Mrs Maher, who did not learn to read and write until she was 16, is continually looking for a government minister or backbench MP to sponsor a plain English bill, similar to those in many American states, compelling official and commercial documents to be written clearly.

Much has been done in the past 20 years to simplify officialdom and deflate gobbledge. Ultimately some concepts, such as the quantum theory and many of the windier and evanescent notions of economists, are too complicated to be translated into language that everyone can understand. One man's gobbledge is another man's plain English and another man's oversimplification.

Not all human beings are built to understand everything. But there is enough pretentious and deceitful gobbledge to keep Mrs Maher and her crusaders busy slaying dragons.



Scouting victory: Jackie Bateman, one of the judges, assessing five entries at The Great British Beer Festival in London yesterday

## Top beer gets mixed reviews at the bar

By JOE JOSEPH

REAL ale enthusiasts have an undeserved reputation for owning huge beer bellies, bushy beards and open-toed sandals. In truth very few of them wear sandals and few would benefit from a Playtex corset.

Camra, the Campaign for Real Ale, celebrated a twenty-first birthday yesterday opening a five-day-long beer festival at the Olympic Exhibition Hall in west London. The vast cavern normally

filled by Ideal Home exhibits of swish silent-fush lavatories or of leggy women draped across Boat Show yachts was filled instead by a 200-metre-long bar and legless women anxious to make their way round the 310 ales on draught, 20,000 gallons in all.

The doors opened to the public at 5pm, minutes after Camra's judging committee had voted Woodford's Norfolk Nog Britain's new champion brew. But it didn't impress everyone at the bar.

"I don't think it's well balanced," said Neil Bain of the brewers' Bass. "It's quite harsh." Big brewers such as Bass feel that they are sneered at by the Camra core simply because they are big and commercial.

Gary Jordan from Bass said the beers entered into the competition had been pampered specially for the competition. Bass entered the same sort of casks that its regular customers were given.

Gordon Hannah, who is

managing the section of bar serving the new champion beer at £1.50 a pint, thought it had "a nice hoppy taste and a lovely sweetness about it".

Michael Jackson, a beer pundit and one of yesterday's judges, who rarely gets mistaken for his pop namesake, rated Norfolk Nog for its "extremely attractive ruby colour. It's smooth, but not cloying".

Within ten minutes of opening, the biggest bar in the world was full of beer

enthusiasts ordering ales that sounded like medieval curses. One of the politer pints was called Robinwood's Old Part. The Times's tasting team decided that it didn't even smell very nice, let alone taste good.

We settled down with some Hop Back Summer Lightning and joined the pub scene: skittles, sausages, enthusiasts ticking off new finds in their British real ale books, a tombola, a bar rock band, a bar mat shop and several dart boards.

## Optimism over film industry

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S ailing film industry is on the brink of recovery, according to Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute. The reason for optimism is a change in government attitude, he said yesterday, launching the institute's annual report.

Responsibility for film, once shared by nine ministries, was now held by the national heritage secretary, Mr Stevenson said. "Our prayers are answered now because we have a single minister who concentrates cinema work in one department, and civil servants who are committed," he said.

David Mellor, the heritage secretary, was studying industry proposals for further tax breaks after Budget measures last March that had made pre-production costs and material acquisition on films allowable against tax, and which had already brought enquiries from American studios. "We are talking about investment, not subsidy," Mr Stevenson said.

The creation this year of the British Film Commission to encourage film making in Britain should be followed by formation of an export agency, based on the French model, to market films abroad, he added.

Sir Richard Attenborough's successor as institute chairman in January is to be the film producer Jeremy Thomas, whose credits include *The Last Emperor*.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Huntsman used whip on protester

A huntsman with the New Forest Buckhounds, Hampshire, has been fined £50 for striking a protester across the hand with a whip.

John Stride, 42, of Brockenhurst, was convicted by Lymington magistrates of assaulting Steven Glintencamp, 27. He was ordered to pay Mr Glintencamp £25 for causing bruising and swelling to his hand and was fined £25 for causing criminal damage to a map. He denied the offences.

### Antarctic walk

The explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes is to attempt the first foot crossing of Antarctica without the help of dogs or air drops. He and Dr Michael Stroud will carry all their supplies and equipment for the 2,200-mile walk on two sledges. The expedition will begin in November.

### Rail scheme

A narrow gauge railway may be built along the line of the former Welsh Highland Railway through the heart of Snowdonia between Porthmadog, Dinas and Caernarfon. Gwynedd county council is to commission a feasibility study for the 25-mile project.

### Doctor appeals

Dr Helen Zeitlin, a former consultant at Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, near Birmingham, will begin an appeal today against being made redundant. She will claim that she was dismissed after publicising fears about nursing shortages endangering patients' safety.

## SIEMENS

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## Rail watchdog reveals 'staggering' increase in discontent as network faces cash shortage

## BR complaints up by 66% since launch of customer charter

By NICHOLAS WATT

COMPLAINTS about British Rail services have risen by 66 per cent since the Passenger's Charter was launched in March, according to a report published yesterday.

Tony Stone, of the Central Transport Consultative Committee, the government-appointed watchdog, said the increase — to 2,283 compared with 1,377 in the same period last year — was "staggering".

"Undoubtedly more people are complaining because the charter has made them more aware of what they can do. But this shows that things really are not going well for British Rail," he said.

A report by the committee showed that the increase in complaints, measured from April to June, was more pronounced in the west of England, where they rose by 166 per cent. Outside England people seem to be happier with their rail services: complaints decreased by 22 per cent in Wales and 28 per cent in Scotland.

Most complaints came from passengers who claimed that train services did not meet their needs; the number of these rose by 160 per cent, from 170 to 445. Complaints about punctuality rose by 148 per cent, from 162 to 402.

Passengers' grumbles about punctuality were borne out by the committee's own figures on reliability for the year ending this March.

InterCity punctuality slipped to 83.7 per cent compared with 84.2 per cent the year before. InterCity aims for 90 per cent of its trains to arrive within ten minutes of the advertised time.

The Gatwick Express bettered this, with 95.7 per cent of trains arriving within the ten-minute target. But the service came bottom of the InterCity table for cancellations, with 6.1 per cent of trains not running. In its worst four-week period, 13.3 per cent were cancelled.

Network SouthEast fared better than InterCity, although the report said there were some abysmal performances. In the morning peak period, 86.8 per cent of trains ran on time compared with 84.2 per cent in the evening period. Network SouthEast aims for 88 per cent of its trains to arrive within five minutes of the advertised time.

The report blamed the poor performance on BR's financial crisis, which has forced the network to operate at £3.1 billion below its desired investment level. Major General Lennox Napier, the committee's chairman, said: "There are some lines that are unacceptably poor and there are areas that will deteriorate if they do not receive any investment. I would say the service is adequate rather than good."

He was also worried about the privatisation of BR. "It would be unwise for the government to think of privatisation as a means of saving money," he said. "The government should make a firm and brave commitment so that we have a chance of a new and improved rail network in Britain."

The fragility of BR's operations was underlined by a warning that Network SouthEast might not be able to cope when Britain comes out of recession. Mike Patterson, the committee's secretary, said: "The amount of rolling stock on Network SouthEast today is 40 per cent less than it was in 1970. At the moment there are fewer customers because of the recession."

John Prescott, Labour's transport spokesman, described the report as "a major indictment of British Rail". He said: "The government has deliberately ignored the committee's annual warnings as part of its overall intention to allow the quality of BR services to run down by starving them of adequate finance."

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said: "This is a sorry reflection on BR and the government and makes a mockery of the Passenger's Charter."

BR defended its performance. John Welsby, BR's chief executive (railways), said: "We have demonstrated in many parts of the country that major investment in infrastructure and new trains brings dramatic improvements."



Cramped and unhappy: a poor start to the day on Britain's worst rail line

## Dirt and delays on the 'Fishing Stool Line'

Nearly a third of peak-time evening trains are late on a line acknowledged to be Britain's worst, Nicholas Watt writes

THEY call it the "Fishing Stool Line". Seats are so scarce on the Kent Coast service from Rainham to London, now officially dubbed Britain's worst line, that commuters bring small stools to sit on during their journey to work.

Nearly a third of the line's trains failed to run on time in the evening peak period last year, according to yesterday's punctuality report by the Central Transport Consultative Committee.

Major General Lennox Napier, the committee's chairman, said the "awful" performance highlighted what happened when British Rail could not invest in new equipment. "I feel sorry for the commuters on the Kent line, which just pips the London, Tilbury and Southend service as the worst in the country," he said.

The regulars on yesterday morning's 8.03 "fast service" from Rainham were unanimous in their contempt for British Rail. Susan McCabe, who boards at Gillingham, said her boss became so infuriated with her lateness that he wrote to BR management.

She said: "The service stinks. It is appallingly bad and there are constant delays. If my boss wasn't so nice I would have been sacked by now. Last November I was late by anything from ten to 45 minutes every day. It is not worth the £169.40 I pay each month."

One commuter has become so frustrated with the unreliable service that she is going to drive to work. The woman, who did not want to be named, said that £1,328 was far too much to pay for an annual season ticket from Rainham to Bromley South when she could never tell what time she would arrive at work.

"I'm annoyed that I'll have to drive, particularly as I'd like to do my bit for the environment," she said. "I can't understand why British Rail doesn't put on a shuttle service for commuters instead of starting in Dover and Ramsgate."

As he darted into the 8.03 from Rainham to try to grab a seat, David Lloyd Owen said delays often added four hours a week to his journey.

"In the last few weeks the

service has been awful. I am often delayed by an hour coming home because of cancellations," he said.

Bill Denham snuffed at BR's "incompetence". He said: "In the summer, when there are fewer acts of God to disturb the service, BR still manages to get it wrong. Only the other day we had a new excuse — rubbish on the track."

"I remember a guard once announced that we would be delayed because of a dead dog on the line. Staff are often discourteous and sometimes downright rude. They're often unhelpful at the station and stand chatting in groups, showing little interest in the job."

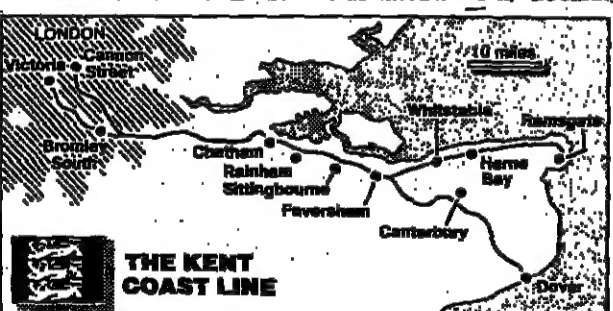
Chris Leonard was dreading his journey as he prepared to catch the 7.35: "I'm running a bit late this morning. Normally I catch the 6.55, which usually arrives on time. But I might be late catching the later train. I find the trains are slowly overcrowded, but that is partly because it is a tourist line to the docks."

It is not just delays that irritate the commuters. They also complain that trains are filthy and the carriage floors of yesterday's 8.03 were littered with empty Coke cans and crisps. It was a bright morning, but there was little point in looking out of the windows: BR cannot clean the outside of the trains because of water restrictions imposed during the drought. Cleaning them was not particularly efficient anyway, as washing equipment at Ramsgate dates from the 1920s.

British Rail is trying to wash the trains by hand but this did not impress Shirley Baker, who travels from Rainham. She said: "The toilets are really filthy and I never use them. I also don't use the headrests because they are so dirty."

The Kent line is served by 35-year-old trains and there is no programme to update the equipment. Mike Patterson, the committee's secretary, understands the Kent commuters' feelings as he travels from Rainham.

"People seem to be reconciled that they won't get a seat. But it is unfair that they should arrive tired and frustrated at work," he said.



## Flexibility of road transport leaves trains standing

A COMPANY that refitted 16 British Rail locomotives to be used for track laying in the Channel tunnel found it quicker to move some of them by road.

RFS Industries, a railway engineering company, chose road transport after BR said it would need a month's notice to deliver the locomotives. Rail is less flexible than going by road because BR schedules 16,000 trains a day. Even at night the network is busy carrying freight, post and sleepers.

Steve Hinton, chief executive of RFS, said: "We had to meet a very tight deadline to fit out old British Rail Class 20 locomotives for the Channel tunnel. BR could not move quickly, but by road we just fixed up a low loader and were away."

"The journey, from start to finish, was a railway timetable's nightmare. But for a small road hauler it was a significant contract. The locomotives weigh 80 tonnes and are 30ft long."

Most of the locomotives were delivered by road on the

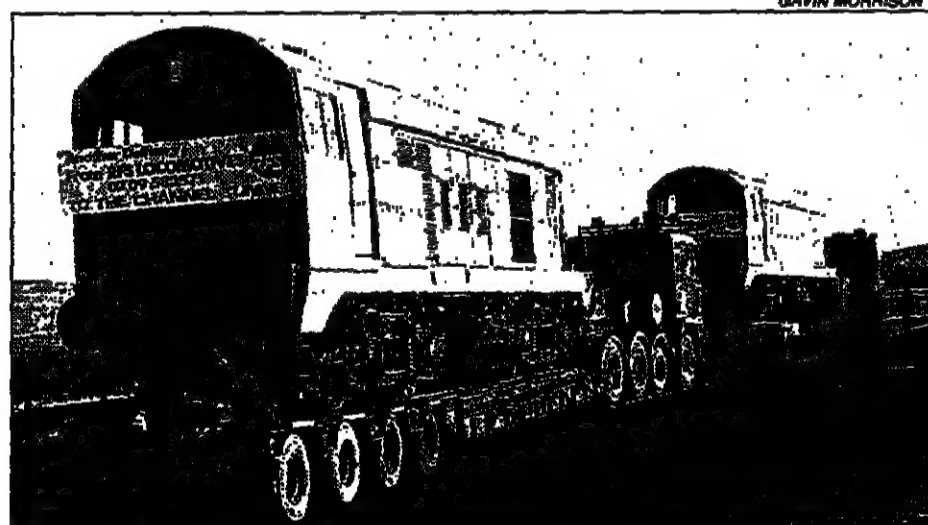
back of low-loaders operated by Alley's Heavy Haulage. The locomotives were first taken from BR depots around the country to MC Metals in Glasgow, where asbestos was removed. Then they were driven to the RFS works in Rotherham to be refitted before being sent to

The logistics of running 16,000 trains a day makes roads faster and cheaper, say Nicholas Watt and Louise Hidalgo

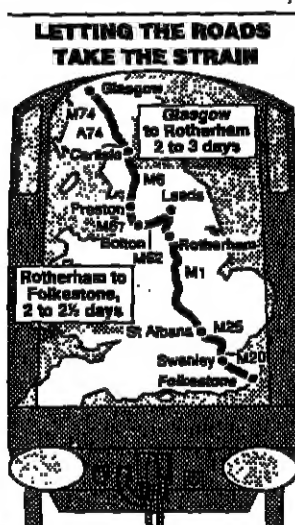
the tunnel at Folkestone or to the French entrance at Sangatte. The journey took up to 5½ days.

The drivers had to observe strict government rules on resting. They drove for 4½ hours, rested for 45 minutes

GAVIN MORRISON



On the move: British Rail locomotives travel by road to the Channel tunnel



to one hour and drove for another 4½ hours before resting for nine hours.

For such heavy loads there was a constant police escort, which meant telling 17 police authorities between Glasgow and Folkestone. Electricity, gas and water companies also had to be

notified in case there were weak bridges or low pylons on the way.

The Freight Transport Association estimated that it cost £2,000-£2,600 to transport one locomotive by road from Glasgow to Folkestone.

Richard Hope, consultant editor of *Railway Gazette*, said that moving locomotives by road highlighted BR scheduling difficulties. "BR is so obsessed with safety they demand all kinds of conditions. They are terrified of being blamed for anything."

One group of locomotive buffs, which wanted to move a Class 50 model from Exeter to Tunbridge Wells, found that BR's stringent conditions made the rail journey £3,000 more expensive than going by road. Phil Barry, of the Class 50 Locomotive Association, said BR would have charged £5,000 plus another £4,500 for transporting the locomotive by road for the final leg from Crawley to Tunbridge Wells. This compared with £6,175 charged by a road haulier.

## Judge hits at leniency for children

A JUDGE complained yesterday that Parliament prevented him from passing an effective sentence on a schoolboy who carved his initials in another boy's back during a "terrifying" ordeal in Epping Forest.

Mr Justice Laughead conceded at the Old Bailey that he did not have the power to pass the sentence of three months' detention that he imposed on the 13-year-old boy from east London last week.

"I revoke it," he said. "I substitute the most that Parliament allows — that he be placed under a supervision order for a year and undergo 90 days of supervised activities."

Judge Laughead said the boy and two older youths had kidnapped a 14-year-old and taken him to Epping Forest. But a child under the age of 14, however dangerous and however heinous the crime, could not be locked up for anything short of homicide.

"The responsibility for what might occur by letting such dangerous children at liberty is the responsibility of Parliament," the judge said. The schoolboy pleaded guilty last week to false imprisonment and wounding. Two youths were jailed for two years and 18 months.

The victim had his hair pulled out, his hands slashed and his chest burnt with cigarettes. He was whipped with a studded belt and beaten unconscious.

## BBC chief flies out to put bubble back in ailing soap

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE controller of BBC1 will today fly to the Costa del Sol to provide "moral support" for the cast and crew of *Eldorado*, a day after it emerged that ratings for the £10 million-a-year soap sunk to an all-time low of 2.8 million last Friday.

"Disappointment is not an emotion I'm allowing to enter my soul," said Jonathan Powell, who has staked his reputation on the success of *Eldorado*. "I have real faith in this show, although there is room for some improvement."

The audience slump has pushed *Eldorado* out of the top 100 television programmes. Verity Lambert, the executive producer, has now taken control of the series from Julia Smith, the show's creator and producer, who is suffering from exhaustion and has taken an indefinite leave of absence.

Mr Powell said he would be telling the cast and unit on the £2.5 million set that he was "committed to them 100 per cent."

Initially hyped as the soap that would help to reverse ITV's 10 per cent ratings lead, *Eldorado* has seen its audience collapse from just over 10 million when it began on July 6. The latest official ratings figures, published yesterday, reveal ratings of 4.4 million for the Friday, July 24 episode. Unofficial overnight figures reveal that the series

attracted just 2.8 million last Friday.

Launching BBC1's £90-million autumn schedule yesterday, Mr Powell said last Friday's ratings were poor because of the Olympics on BBC2. But he added that the BBC was now making improvements to the series, which has been criticised for its wooden acting, poor sound quality, bad direction and unimaginative storylines.

Mr Powell denied that the BBC was thinking of scrapping the series. "I don't put shows on or take them off just because of a couple of bad reviews. If I did that *Casualty* would not now be on the air."

He also denied he was under pressure from the BBC management, although John Birt, who replaces Sir Michael Checkland as director-general, said last week that the BBC was "not happy" with the series.

Other highlights include Michael Palin's adventures travelling from Pole To Pole after the success of his travel programme *Around The World In 80 Days*. *OmniBus* celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary with profiles of Walt Disney, the late novelist Angela Carter and the film director John Ford.

*Staring Pretty*, a new comedy series about an aging child of the Swinging Sixties, by John Sullivan, the writer of *Only Fools and Horses*, is one of 18 new comedy and variety shows.

al next March, is understood to believe that *Eldorado* is too downmarket for the BBC's schedules.

BBC1's autumn line-up includes 113 hours of strong new drama, featuring *Between the Lines*, a thriller about police corruption, and *Chivies*, the new Lynda La Plante drama about four former paratroopers adapting to civilian life.

*Screen One* returns with eight new feature films made for the BBC, including the drama-documentary *Disaster at Valdez*, about the Exxon oil spill; *Born Kicking*, about the trials and tribulations of a female football star; and *Running Late*, about a television personality with problems. BBC1 will also broadcast such Hollywood classics as *The Maltese Falcon*, *Cabaret*, *Midnight Cowboy*, *Psycho* and *King Kong*.

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Powell staked his reputation on *Eldorado*

## Future of Scots water on review

SPECULATION that the Scottish water industry is to be privatised mounted yesterday after an announcement by the government that it had appointed consultants to study the future of the industry.

Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said the consultants, Quayle Munro of Edinburgh, would study a range of options, "including a role for the private sector", and report in the autumn.

"I have not yet decided on the future structure of these services but whatever decision is reached I want the consumer to get the best possible water at the lowest possible cost, taking into account the high and increasing levels of investment which will be necessary," Mr Lang said.

Water and sewage in Scotland are handled by the country's regional councils, whose own future is uncertain under the government's yet-to-be-decided local government reforms.

The privatisation issue aside, ministers have already said Scots will face higher water charges because of the heavy long-term investment needed to raise supplies to the standards of the EC and the rest of Britain.

## Irish author says critique is racist

By KERRY GILL

FRANK Delaney, the Irish writer and broadcaster, is to report *The Scotsman* newspaper to the Commission for Racial Equality over a review of his latest novel, *The Sins of the Mothers*.

The review, published in June, was by a fellow countryman, Owen Dudley Edwards, reader in history at Edinburgh University. It was written in the traditions of Irish theatre dialogue and had two characters, Pat and Mike, discussing the book in Irish idiom. Mr Edwards said he used this style to entertain and, of perhaps more irritation to Mr Delaney, to convey his opinion that the novelist had his eye on the book becoming a television soap opera.

Mr Delaney feels that by poking fun at the dialect of two Irishmen, Mr Edwards, and thus the newspaper, have been guilty of racism. He has written to *The Scotsman* telling Magnus Linklater, the editor, that he will take up the matter under the Race Relations Act 1976.

Mr Edwards said yesterday: "Book reviews become remarkably tedious if they are all written the same way. Here was a book obviously trying to make itself into a soap opera, and I reviewed it accordingly."

He said he could not understand why Mr Delaney should think he would want to be offensive towards the Irish. "His people come from south Tipperary. My mother

## Arsonist's 'English pig' jibe

A Welsh farmhouse owned by a north Devon antique dealer was dubbed "English pig out" and set on fire yesterday. The 26 letters were painted in red on the £100,000 house at Penderyn, Mid Glamorgan.

Police said the owner, whom they did not name, did not work the farm as a business but had stayed there regularly since buying it three years ago.

Det Supt Colin Jones said: "A caravan on the site was also damaged recently." He said there was no evidence of a link with the extremist group "Meibon Gylndwr (Sons of Gylndwr)."

Mr Linklater has written to Mr Delaney saying that the style of satire used in the review was part of an honourable tradition and referred him to James Joyce's *Ulysses*, Flann O'Brien's *The Best of Myles* and Sean O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*. He offered to publish the author's reply in the letter column of the newspaper, but Mr Delaney said that was not good enough.

The commission said that when the complaint was received it would attempt to mediate between *The Scotsman* and Mr Delaney. If that did not succeed, it could be a matter for the Press Complaints Commission.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

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Two Oxford-based writers, Bill Reaper, 32, and Martin Hoffman, a Norwegian-born quadriplegic, were named as winners of the Thai Airways Airbus crash on Friday.

Bond winner

The winning bond in the National Savings Premium Bonds £250,000 monthly draw is number 2827, 428928. The winner lives in Derby.



## General puts Soviet terror victims at four million

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

THE Russian media yesterday reported what appeared to be authoritative figures for those "legally purged" during 70 years of Communist rule. Nearly four million citizens were tried for state crimes in the former Soviet Union between 1917 and 1990, Tass and Ivestia said after carrying out a joint interview of Major General Anatoli Krayushkin, a senior figure in Russia's security service.

The new figures coincide with an announcement that up to 2,000 special officers are to advise the Russian procurator's department on the rehabilitation — more often than not posthumously — of the remaining victims of the Soviet dictatorship. According to the general, 3,853,900 people were "tried for state crimes in the Soviet Union". He further stated that 827,995 of them were executed by firing squads.

But are the figures accurate? Although they help to fill out the picture of what must have been, for millions of Russians, Ukrainians and other Soviet peoples, miserable and murderous years, do they account for all the victims of Soviet terror campaigns? According to many historians, both here

and in Britain, yesterday's release of a new number still leaves a great many questions unanswered.

In the West, the toll of dead from Stalin's years alone is reckoned by historians to have been many millions. So have we overestimated the numbers of Stalin's victims? "I wouldn't bet on it," said Harry Shukman, of St Antony's College, Oxford. Like many historians, Professor Shukman doubted whether the Russian security service's version could be taken as the literal truth. In the early years of the communist regime the bureaucracy did not bother to keep proper accounts of state murders. Although the cases of Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries, and other opponents arrested by the Bolshevik regime would have been recorded, the disappearance of whole chunks of the political class with dubious loyalties to Lenin's regime would simply not have been listed. "If you could see the archives from 1920 to 1921, you would not find figures for the thousands who were executed during the civil war as Whites," he said.

The figures also leave out those victims who received no trial. The numbers omit groups like Ukrainian and southern Russian kulaks — rich peasants — who were banished for their opposition to collectivisation or who faced death in their hundreds of thousands through famines engineered by the Kremlin. Other ethnic groups, such as Germans, Greeks, Tatars and Chechens, exiled during the 1940s, are not included in yesterday's figures. Apart from these classes, other groups, such as so-called "bandits," who engaged in political and armed opposition to the regime, have yet to find a place on the list of those murdered for political reasons.

In a disturbing twist, the figures indicate that a higher number than originally thought were executed under Nikita Khrushchev, whose rule is described by some historians as "relatively benign". In January of this year, 642,980 people were reported to have been executed between 1917 and Khrushchev's accession to the Kremlin. Now the total executed throughout the lifetime of communism is given as 827,995, a difference of some 185,000.

However, the attempt at a numbers count, suggests Prince Rashid Kaplanov, a Dagestan historian from Moscow's General History Institute, indicates that the secret service is at least ready to reveal more about its terrible past. "Many people instrumental in the persecutions were still influential until recently. This action can only be started after the failed putsch," the prince said.

Some Russians are more sceptical. Aleksei Vasilyevsky, a historian turned journalist, dismissed the figures as too precise.

"During the terror, during the civil war, you could not get accurate figures for the numbers persecuted, but yet that is what they are giving us. It is nonsense," he said, wondering whether the smaller than expected figures were linked to the issue of financial compensation for victims.

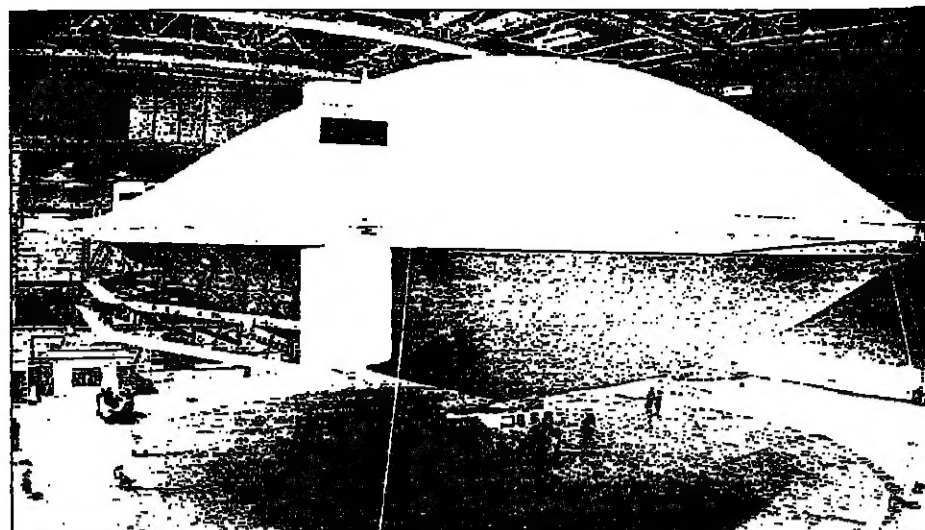
## Russia seeks lift-off for its flying hotel

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

A GIANT "flying saucer" which could be used as a cruising hotel, mobile hospital or emergency evacuation vehicle is nearing completion in Russia.

A prototype of the natural gas-powered "Thermoplane" is being tested at the Aviatstar aviation complex in Ulyanovsk, and the first full-scale production model could be on sale in 1995. Russian salesmen plan to disclose details of the craft — known as the ALA600 — at next month's Farnborough air show. President Yeltsin has pledged state support for the project after marketing research showed there could be demand from around the world.

The Soviet government began funding the secret project in 1989 through its military budget, in the hope of developing a heavy aircraft capable of transporting equipment to logging, mining and construction projects in the far north of the country. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian aircraft designers realised they had to make their projects commercially acceptable. They therefore began looking



Flight to the future: the giant "Thermoplane", resembling a flying saucer, grounded in its hangar at the Aviatstar complex in Ulyanovsk, Russia

at alternative uses, and received support from the eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov, who enthusiastically drew up plans to take teams of surgeons to remote parts of the world in the fully equipped hospital the "Thermoplane" would be able to transport. Now funds are being sought from the United Nations to make the project a reality.

Tour operators and hoteliers around the world are

being privately contacted to see if they would be interested in leasing the craft as a flying hotel. Other international bodies have been sent details of the "Thermoplane" and asked to come up with suggestions for its use. One being looked at is the creation of an emergency evacuation vehicle which could land near the sites of natural disasters and pick up victims.

The "Thermoplane" is basi-

cally a giant airship envelope which is partly filled with helium and also natural gas. The hot air from the engines is used to heat the natural gas to provide additional lift and eliminate exhaust.

According to the next issue of *Jane's All The World's Aircraft*, the aircraft will be able to fly at about 50 miles an hour and at a height of just under 7,000 ft. It will have a range of 5,000 miles.

### PEOPLE

## Broadway blues for Trump's companion

Maria Maples got her first bad review for her Broadway debut in the hit musical *Will Rogers Follies* even before her scheduled first appearance. John Simon, the New York magazine critic, had advised theatre-goers a week earlier to see the musical before the companion of Donald Trump, the millionaire American developer, took over the role of "Ziegfeld's Favourite" from Cady Huffman. The critic said Maples "studied mostly at the Donald Trump Academy and surely cannot hold a candle to Miss Huffman — and I'm not just talking about the disparity in height." Mr Trump countered: "It's inconceivable that a man could give a review before he has even seen her in the musical."

New Zealand's prime minister, Jim Bolger, briefly joined his country's poor and needy, making an unannounced and unpublicised visit at the weekend to a Wellington soup kitchen. His wife, Joan, helped with the dishes.

Adam Rich, 23, the former

child actor of the hit American comedy television show *Eight Is Enough*, pleaded "no contest" in Los Angeles to drug and burglary charges. He was put on probation and ordered to complete a drug rehabilitation programme.

The Swedish journalist Ebbe Carlsson, 44, controversial mainly for his role in the investigation of the assassination of the prime minister, Olof Palme, in 1986, has died in Stockholm of Aids.

Three out of four Germans believe that the former East German leader, Erich Honecker, should be punished, according to a poll published by *Stern* magazine.

The veteran Chinese dissident Wang Ruowang, 74, who was kicked out of the Communist party twice and jailed after the 1989 pro-democracy protests, said in Shanghai that he would leave for the United States to take up a one-year invitation from Columbia University.

## Civil rights cardinal dies at 93

FROM REUTERS IN PRAGUE

CARDINAL Frantisek Tomasek, the former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Prague who championed religious and civil rights during four decades of communist rule, has died in Prague aged 93, the official news agency CSTK said yesterday.

He helped guide Czechoslovakia towards democracy in 1989, playing an important role in the overthrow of the communist government when he publicly supported anti-communist protesters. He was subjected to years of harassment by communist authorities who ruthlessly suppressed the Roman Catholic church. At the age of 85, he began confronting the Communist party openly and became one of Eastern Europe's leading proponents of religious freedom.

He repeatedly took the party to task for restricting the freedom of priests, limiting the number of seminarians and discriminating against Catholics in schools and at work. In March 1989, Cardinal Tomasek joined members of the Charter 77 human rights group in calling for the release of the jailed playwright Vaclav Havel — later to become Czechoslovakia's president — and other dissidents.

He became Apostolic Administrator of the Prague archdiocese in 1965 and was appointed a cardinal by Pope Paul VI in 1977. In March 1991, at the age of 91, he was given permission by the present Pope to retire as Archbishop of Prague.

Obituary, page 13

## Anguish in Venice over gondola death

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

COUNCILLORS met angry gondoliers in Venice yesterday in an attempt to create traffic rules for the city after an American woman tourist was swept from her gondola by waves from a motor launch and drowned.

Newspapers reported that the authorities are likely to try to shift some of the main routes used by public motor launches away from water immediately surrounding St Mark's Square after the death of Vivian Ester Levi, 65, on Sunday. The gondoliers are up in arms over the incident, not least because they have been complaining for months about the danger from the motor launches, some of which career round the lagoon at high speed. Recently the pilot of the launch used by the mayor of Venice was fined by police for speeding.

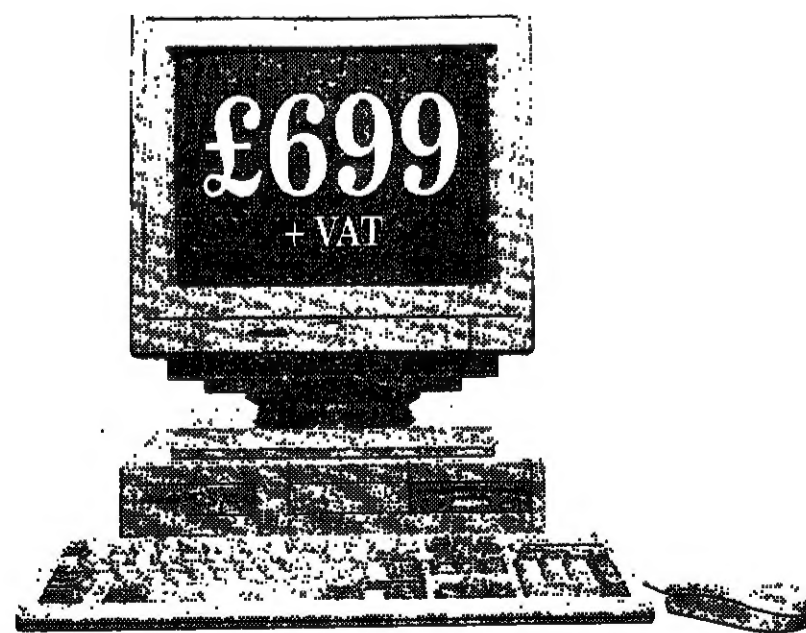
Mrs Levi was returning with a group of tourists after being serenaded in the lagoon on board the gondola. She was fished out of the water conscious and able to speak about her ordeal. But she died later, possibly from water in the lungs or a heart attack, judicial sources said.

The gondoliers say they want all motor boats banned at least in the busy waters from the Danieli Hotel to the jetty in front of the Royal Gardens by St Mark's. *La Stampa* said it was unlikely the council would make great progress in resolving the problem of the overcrowded canal.

Gondoliers are forbidden by bye-laws from moving their craft when other kinds of vessel moving near by. That rule is regularly broken since there is an almost constant flow of motor traffic in the main canals.

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## Peres to lift Israeli ban on contacts with PLO

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

SHIMON Peres, Israel's newly installed foreign minister, yesterday promised that the country's new government would annul the controversial law that bans any contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

In a wide-ranging interview, the former prime minister said that the country's Labour-led government planned to introduce legislation in the Knesset this autumn which would revoke the 1986 law banning meetings with PLO figures. The move, which is likely to anger Israel's right-wing opposition, was regarded as an attempt to improve the atmosphere ahead of this month's round of Middle East peace talks, when Israel's negotiators hope to make a breakthrough in their bilateral contacts with Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories.

Abie Nathan, an Israeli peace activist, was imprisoned for infringing the "prevention of terrorism ordinance", and several prominent Palestinian figures, including Faisal Hussein and Hanan Ashrawi, the delegation spokeswoman, are under police investigation for holding public meetings with Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, earlier this summer.

However, Mr Peres insisted that the move did not signal a rethink on Israel's part about the exclusion of the PLO from the peace process and dismissed a recent offer of a meeting with Mr Arafat as a

"photo opportunity" and an "unnecessary drama". "We have a Palestinian delegation which exists, which we can negotiate with, which is accepted by Palestinians and accepted by us," he said. "Any attempt to enlarge it, to modify it, to change it, will introduce a chaotic situation. What for? We don't have much time."

Mr Peres, 69, said the new government would be judged on its performance in its first few months. It was determined to reach a preliminary agreement with Palestinian negotiators when the two sides meet in Washington on August 24 for a month of continuous negotiations about the transfer of self-rule to the 1.8 million Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The most important thing is the election, its nature, its date; this is the key to the whole implementation of autonomy," said Mr Peres. He predicted that elections to a Palestinian administrative council would take place in the next nine to 12 months.

The Israeli foreign minister's optimistic assessment of the prospects for the peace talks, however, appeared to carefully gloss over some potential pitfalls for the new government. In particular, Mr Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, must contend with a growing right-wing opposition in Israel to the autonomy plan, unease in Syria that its key position is being marginalised by the talks with the Palestinians, and the personal rivalry between the two Labour leaders.

Mr Peres warned potential right-wing troublemakers at home that the new government would not permit any violent disruptions to its programme. "Democracy ends where fear begins. We have to control the rights of the majority to make decisions. It is our obligation," said the life-long Labour member, noted by the right for his dovish views.

As far as Damascus was concerned, he refused to discuss what the Israeli negotiators would present to the Syrian counterparts by way of new proposals on the future of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. But he said that the appointment of Itamar Rabinovich as Israel's new chief negotiator with the Syrians was a signal to President Assad that the new administration would be more reasonable than the outgoing Likud government.

Regarding his career-long power struggle with Mr Rabin, who defeated him in Labour party leadership elections earlier this year, Mr Peres insisted that far greater matters were now at stake than his personal political ambitions. "We have to serve the country, not an ego," he said.

"We were elected to serve a cause and this must be, and in my judgment is, the overriding consideration. Right now the main aim is to implement peace. I don't know of anything which is more important to me as a person or a political leader."

Mr Peres, 69, said he was a member of the West Bank Israeli soldiers who crossed from Jordan to the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday. Two soldiers were wounded in the clash, the first fatal cross-border attack since Mr Rabin became prime minister last month, the army said. (Reuters)

**Obituary, page 13**

**Sikhs attack**  
Amritsar: Sikhs, separatists blew up an Indian Border Security Force vehicle, killing seven soldiers and wounding four others, police said. The attack came a day after Sikh militants killed 29 Hindus in Uttar Pradesh. (AP)

**Cash payout**  
Peking: Families of seven Hong Kong and Taiwan passengers killed in last week's Nanking plane crash will be paid ten times more than the mainland victims "because of the gap in living standards", a spokesman said. (AFP)

**Art found**  
Nice: Police have recovered a Matisse, a Modigliani and two Degas worth £2.8 million belonging to Anthony Tanouiri, a Franco-Lebanese businessman, from a car after they were stolen from a villa.

**Sticky fingers**  
Sydney: A hungry robber who broke into a cafe could not resist the cakes, but they proved his undoing because he left his fingerprints in the remains. A court ordered him to pay £650 compensation. (Reuters)



Fiery protest: barricades set up by residents of Mannenberg in Cape Town burn unchecked during a night when ten people died in violence linked to the strike

## Millions obey strike call as more die in township violence

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa was at a virtual standstill for the second day running yesterday as millions of black workers continued the general strike called by the African National Congress alliance, but police renewed their claims that intimidation was rife. Brigadier General Leon Mellett, the police information chief, said that thousands of people were staying at home for fear of their lives.

At least six people were killed in overnight township violence, raising the total since Sunday to more than 40. In Alexandra township, north of

Johannesburg, a gun battle raged for hours during the night. Police said five people had been killed, but residents claimed that up to eight had died. They demanded the closing down of the township's Madala hostel, said to be a stronghold of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The huge sprawl of Soweto, south of Johannesburg, the volatile East Rand and Vaal triangle townships, as well as those surrounding Pretoria, were quiet and the streets almost deserted. Heavy unseasonal overnight rain had brought an icy chill to the Johannesburg area. In Krugersdorp, west of Johannesburg, the leader of the United Nations observer

mission came face-to-face with the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement as 3,000 ANC supporters gathered at a football stadium for a march on police headquarters.

Although the right-wing Conservative Party town council had not given permission for the march, police said they would not interfere with it and the movement members threatened that if the police refused to enforce law and order, they and the residents of Krugersdorp would.

Hisham Omayad of Ghana shook hands with Henry de Beer, the local movement chief, and told him he believed the people of South Africa should solve their own problems and

that the UN presence in the country was strictly to observe. Another member of the UN team went to the Driefontein gold mine in southwest Transvaal, where the pro-ANC National Union of Mineworkers said seven of its members had been killed by Inkatha supporters. Jay Naidoo, general secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions, said last night that the response by business people to the two-day general strike had been largely sympathetic, although some disagreed with the tactics and strategies used. "Considering the magnitude of the mass strike we must regard intimidation as negligible," he said.

The second phase of the ANC alliance's week of action is due to begin today with mass marches and sit-ins planned throughout the country. Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, will lead a march in Pretoria to the Union Buildings, the administrative seat of government, where the cabinet usually holds its weekly meetings. He intends to seek a response from the government to the ANC's demands for resuming constitutional negotiations. Party organisers hope that between 50,000 and 70,000 supporters will join in the rally. In Cape Town, freeways will be closed for a mass march from Langa township to the city centre.

## Past Pentagon overtures to Iraq embarrass Bush

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, fighting for his political life, suffered further embarrassment yesterday when it was disclosed that the Pentagon had sought to establish low-level military links with Iraq just three months before the invasion of Kuwait.

Those links would have ranged from exchange programmes to the training of Iraqi soldiers in fields such as landmine counter-measures, aerial reconnaissance and aviation security including "IR [infra-red] counter-measures for the [Iraqi] president's aircraft", according to Pentagon documents surrendered to congressional investigators and obtained by The Washington Post.

The Pentagon initiative was in response to an October 1989 directive signed by Mr Bush ordering consideration of non-lethal military assistance to Iraq as part of a

broader attempt to moderate Baghdad's conduct. But it was blocked by the State Department because "the US domestic political climate was not supportive of increased military relations" with Iraq.

Democrats seized on the revelation. Sam Gejdenson, a senior member of the House foreign affairs committee, said: "Even after Saddam Hussein threatened to 'burn half of Israel' with binary chemical weapons, attempted to smuggle nuclear triggers, and moved missile bases closer to Israel, the Department of Defence wanted to provide him with military assistance. What could [the department] have been thinking?"

This week William Barr, the US attorney-general, must respond to a congressional demand for a special prosecutor

to investigate the administration's prewar support for Iraq. Congressmen have accused the administration of allowing Iraq to divert American aid to military programmes, permitting Iraq to obtain technologies with dangerous military applications, and seeking subsequently to cover up its actions.

Democrats contend that the revelations, and Saddam's persistent defiance, have largely cancelled out the Gulf war victory as a vote-winner for Mr Bush. Vic Fazio, a senior California congressman, said: "It is no longer a home-run ball for George Bush to talk about Iraq."

Yesterday's disclosure came as a new poll showed Mr Bush trailing Bill Clinton by 25 points and government figures underlined the feebleness of America's economic recovery.

A Gallup survey gave Mr Clinton 57 per cent and Mr Bush 32, with the president's approval rating down to a new low of 29 per cent. Mr Bush insists his political fortunes will recover with the economy.



Barr facing call for an investigation

## Anti-communist tribesmen sent to Vietnam

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

MEMBERS of Vietnam's Nung minority people were forcibly repatriated from Hong Kong yesterday, as the British colony dismissed claims by the human rights group, Asia Watch, that the tribal people were singled out for persecution by the Vietnamese authorities.

Brian Bresnahan, the Hong Kong government refugee co-ordinator, said 38 Nung were among the 60 Vietnamese deported yesterday on a chartered transport aircraft with none of the struggles and protests that marked the colony's first forced repatriation flights last year. Also on the flight were ten men convicted of committing crimes in Hong Kong, including theft, wounding and drug trafficking and a 14-month-old child born in a boat people camp.

The Nung, who live in northern Vietnam near the Chinese border, have a history of staunch anti-communism and were used as mercenaries by both the French and the United States as well as working as guards for leading South Vietnamese civilian and military figures. Last weekend

Asia Watch called on the Hong Kong government not to deport either Nung or people who were liable to be punished as counter-revolutionaries, saying they faced deprivation of their civil rights, police abuse and forced labour and possible execution.

However, Mr Bresnahan rejected the claim that all 133 Nung in Hong Kong's crowded boat people camps would be subject to persecution, pointing out that 24 had returned voluntarily last year and another 30 had put their names forward for a United

Nations voluntary repatriation programme. So far only 15 had been accepted as genuine refugees. He said Hong Kong did not grant any political, religious or ethnic group automatic refugee status but heard each asylum seeker's case individually.

Since Hong Kong's controversial deportation flights began last year, 221 Vietnamese boat people have been forced home against their will. However, the programme has hugely increased the numbers taking the option to return voluntarily.

## India fails to rescue economy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

A YEAR after India abandoned socialism to embrace the free market, the country is sinking deeper into economic difficulties. Foreign investment has not materialised, and the poor are bearing the brunt of retrenchment.

Much of the red tape that bedevilled private enterprise has gone. But the central problems of corruption and an obstructive bureaucracy remain. Most foreign companies are still wary of making a substantial commitment.

"You would not expect miracles after only a year, but there is not much sign of substantial new foreign investment being contemplated in the next few years," a senior Western observer said. Overseas investment in India this year is unlikely to exceed \$500 million (£260 million), compared with proposals for \$6.5 billion in China.

The slow pace of reform has raised doubts about the government's commitment to fundamental change. It says it wants to close uneconomic nationalised industries and trim the public workforce. But it is plainly wary of taking on the immensely powerful trade unions. Stakes of up to 20 per cent in some public enterprises have been sold, but there is no concerted drive to end government involvement in industry.

Protectionism persists. Maximum import tariffs, though reduced, are still at 110 per cent, among the world's highest. Poor people are being hit by rising food prices.

## Minister abandons Collor

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

FERNANDO Collor, the beleaguered president who is battling to stay in office amid Brazil's worst political crisis in decades, has suffered his first serious casualty.

Senator Jose Goldenberg, a respected nuclear physicist and skilful bureaucrat who headed the education ministry, handed in his letter of resignation. Known as Brailia's "super-minister" — he was drafted earlier this year to hold together two other troubled ministries — Senator Goldenberg did not wait for the president's response, but cleared out his desk and boarded a plane for São Paulo on Monday night.

On his way out, Senator Goldenberg spoke of personal fatigue and disappointment with the lack of support for social programmes. "The government ended up preoccupied with its own survival," he said. For Senator Collor, facing accusations in a widening corruption scandal involving the shady dealings of a former campaign aide, the price of survival is growing dearer by the moment. Senator Goldenberg's departure is perhaps only the first in a wave of resignations.

For the past two months, congress has been investigating the free-spending ways of Paulo Cesar Farias, the president's former campaign treasurer, who is accused of bankrupting Senator Collor's household expenses and using his personal relationship with the president to mount a virtual "parallel government". As the charges have drawn closer to the presidential palace, the opposition has clamoured for his removal.

Francisco Gros, the central bank president, is reportedly to be upset by the administration's manoeuvres to use public money to buy political support. Pedro Luiz Rodrigues, Senator Collor's press secretary, quit office last weekend after clashing with Senator Collor over an order to funnel the lucrative government advertising accounts to friendly media while cutting off advertisements to critics in the press.

Pressure is also mounting on Marelio Marques Moreira, the economics minister considered the pillar of the Collor administration, to open Brasilia's purse strings to localists in congress and in state and local government. Senator Marques Moreira, a portrait of serenity in this sea of political turmoil, has played down such pressures as only "normal demand" in a democratic society.

## America ready to fade out freedom broadcasts

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

America's policy of broadcasting to communist countries may be the next casualty of the ending of the Cold war.

A presidential commission on public diplomacy this week called for the dismantling of TV Marti, the anti-communist television station that has broadcast news and entertainment to Cuba for the past two years. The commission also recommended that Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the American-financed stations broadcasting news to the former Soviet bloc, should be phased out.

The recommendations reflect both changing political perceptions and the expense and apparent ineffectiveness of such broadcasts. The United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy,

which oversees the US Information Agency, described TV Marti, a project supported by conservative Cuban exiles in Florida and a favourite White House initiative, as "simple not cost-effective". The programmes are aired between 3am and 6am, but very few Cubans see them since the satellite signal is jammed routinely by the Havana authorities.

Scrappping the television broadcasts would save about \$25 million (£13 million), but would entail political costs. "There's a political decision that the administration has made to support TV Marti," said Tom Korologos, the commission's chairman. "There are a lot of electoral votes in Florida." After a bitter debate last week, the Senate and House voted to fund the



television station for one more year. Supporters of TV Marti say that despite its inability to penetrate Cuba's technical defences, abolishing it would provide President Castro with an unexpected political victory. The recommendation to replace Radio Free Europe and

Radio Liberty, which broadcast to East Europeans throughout the Cold war, with broadcasts from the Voice of America — already providing objective and reliable news for many Third World countries — has also met with opposition.

Malcolm Forbes, chairman of the Board for International Broadcasting, said: "No other media organisation in the world provides these countries with as much information about what is happening within their borders and about their neighbours."

But the commission maintains that the stations are now out of step with the political changes in Eastern Europe. The running costs of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, both based in Mu-

nich, are estimated at \$207 million (£107 million) a year. An earlier presidential task force on international broadcasting concluded that the radio stations should be redefined, but not scaled down.

Congress is now considering proposals to beam news and propaganda to China, a move opposed by the Bush administration on the ground that it would adversely affect relations with Peking. The plan also envisages other "surrogate" radio stations broadcasting to Vietnam and North Korea, together forming a Radio Free China along the European model.

The commission advised this week that rather than build up a new US-Asia radio network, the existing Voice of America broadcasts should be expanded and improved.



# Sarajevo's people struggle to survive in a city ruled by death



Little comfort: Svetlana Glavas clutching a doll that belonged to her daughter who was killed by snipers

THE killing of Vedrana Glavas and Roki Sulejmanovic by sniper fire during an attempt to move children from Sarajevo was but another brutal twist in a war that has seen the worst atrocities in Europe since 1945. For those still living in the Bosnian capital, however, there is no respite.

Television pictures of their bodies, covered in a bloody shroud, may have brought home to the West the dreadful reality of the Bosnian tragedy but their deaths were just two among thousands, including hundreds of children.

The presence of the world's media has kept the spotlight on Sarajevo, but apart from the murderous perpetrators nobody knows the full extent of the bloody events outside the Bosnian capital. Whatever the truth behind reports that there are camps where inmates are killed, there is a great evil in Bosnia and the West seems powerless to stop

Life in Sarajevo, dodging snipers and mortar attacks, is unimaginable for Westerners, writes Adam LeBor, who left the Bosnian capital at the weekend

It Sarajevo's residents are subject to a constant barrage of firepower. They say it is like a heavy lump in the stomach, a constant reminder that at any time the heavens may rain down death on them. Each time two people say goodbye, they never know if they will see each other alive again.

Friends, relatives, neighbours, alcohol, all may lighten the burden, at least temporarily. But when the fighting is close, or especially loud, the fear comes to life, suddenly roused by a burst of nearby machinegun fire.

Still they try to live the semblance of a normal life. In cafes they sit, machine-pistols on the table, next to their coffees, chatting and sometimes joking, but their hands twist constantly, fingers interlocking, always looking and listening as one cigarette follows another.

Ordinary life in Sarajevo has become an existence that is unimaginable to people in the West: picking your way among the rubble, crunching a path across broken glass, ducking in doorways, sprinting across intersections and always with the nagging fear that at any second, a sniper will start shooting or a mortar will land nearby.

Daily the snipers shoot and daily the mortars plummet down. As we drove along Sarajevo's main street one morning, pedestrians crowded the pavements and for a few moments the war seemed far away. The bang came suddenly, echoing across the buildings, shattering glass. The screams started immediately, piercing and harsh as people ran for cover. An old woman fell over, twisting her ankle, and someone ran to help her as perhaps a dozen people tried to cram themselves into a space where there was room for three and four.

Sarajevo's residents must every day, every hour, take life-or-death decisions about what should be purely mundane concerns. The trip to buy a loaf of bread, the quick dash across the road to visit neighbours: all these must be weighed as a gamble for which the losers will pay with their limbs, or maybe their lives. Grieving

relatives cannot even mourn their dead for a few moments of peace for fear of sniper or mortar fire.

It is worst for the parents of children and teenagers. Even in Sarajevo, schoolchildren attend their exams, hopeful that some time in a peaceful future there will be an opportunity for a better life. They know that they may not even live to see the results, but still they take the journey to college to be graded on their skills at speaking English or French.

Mothers are placed in an acute dilemma even when their children ask to play outside or visit their friends. Sarajevo's youngsters have spent months living and sleeping in dank, dark shelters. If they run outside in the open air, to play football or hide and seek they may, like Amir Advic, have to pay a terrible price for their childish pleasures. The eight-year-old boy now walks on crutches, minus

one leg, after a mortar landed nearby, killing his friend Edo. He told me the story sitting on his hospital bed. They are words, no child, no adult should have to utter.

For the children of Sarajevo, the simple pleasures of childhood are now inconceivable. Their existence is governed by the infantry battles that rage across their home town most evenings and the shelling that wakes them up most mornings.

After Iraq invaded Kuwait, the West formed an alliance to launch the Gulf war and eventually liberate the emirate. But there is no oil in Sarajevo, say its inhabitants bitterly. And for more than 350,000 trapped residents of the besieged city there is no end in sight.

As the sign on the wall behind Sniper Alley says, "Welcome to Hell".

Bloodstained lies, page 10

## Hurd rules out air attacks on Serbian artillery positions

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday again ruled out any air strikes on Serbian positions, saying that many innocent people would be killed and such action would not stop the mortars and the hand-held rockets.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in a Radio 4 interview that there might be ways of extending the United Nations involvement, by protecting humanitarian convoys or monitoring a ceasefire agreement of heavy artillery in the hills. But he added: "If the British government, or the UN, or any government felt that two or three days of sharp military action would bring these horrors to an end, then the argument for that would be strong. Nobody does."

Mr Hurd said the situation was in no way comparable to the Gulf conflict. Young men carrying mortars were moving

fast among civilians. They were living in villages and among people who were not fighting at all. Serbs, Croats and Muslims were mingled together, and any action from the air would kill many more innocent people.

Britain, as president of the European Community, is to propose a sharp increase in the economic and political pressure on Serbia, however. In response to requests from Romania, it will propose the dispatch of monitors to the Danube to see which ships are breaking the sanctions on Serbia and bringing in vital oil supplies. The Romanian government has denied sanctions breaking, but Romanian, Greek and Russian ships are all suspected of

selling oil to Serbia — though not necessarily with their governments' knowledge.

Britain will also call for the establishment of secure zones, similar to safe havens, for refugees. These will be inside the territory of former Yugoslavia, and will be areas where UN supplies and shelter can be concentrated.

British officials said the callousness of the fighters in Bosnia had reached such levels that any outside military action might only induce them to hide their heavy guns in orphanages or close to schools. Despite earlier German calls for refugee quotas, there was a general consensus among the EC members that relief should be given inside Yugoslavia.

As preparations continued for the London international conference on the conflict, officials hinted Lord Carrington may be about to resign as head of the EC peace mission. "He may genuinely have had enough," one official said. Whitehall appeared to be preparing for his retirement on the opening of the conference.

Mr Hurd said yesterday that the conference, to be opened on August 26 by John Major, will broaden and intensify the Carrington mission. All the leaders of the warring Yugoslav republics are expected to attend. Yesterday Douglas Hogg, the junior Foreign Office minister, visited Dublin as part of his consultations with all EC members, whose governments are expected to take part. Next week he will travel to Zagreb, Belgrade and Sarajevo.

The conference will aim to bring together the EC and UN peace efforts, and Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, will co-chair the steering committee that will set up working groups. The main aims will be to make the ceasefire stick, to negotiate a political settlement and to ensure the rapid flow of humanitarian relief.

Officials said the conference would not begin until there had been thorough preparation. "There will be no quick fix," one said. "We are in for a long haul. We are dealing with the disintegration of a country with a dangerous history. There is no military solution, and we have no hopes of a sudden solution at this meeting."

## UN quarrel draws in Third World

Diplomats are surprised by the UN chief's move to widen his dispute with the Security Council, writes James Bone

WHEN Lord Carrington arranged last month's peace talks in London on Bosnia-Herzegovina, he invited Cyrus Vance, the United Nations' special envoy.

Mr Vance asked Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, if he should attend and was told firmly "no" — apparently because the UN chief wanted the organisation to be offered joint chairmanship of the talks. The outcome was a probably unnecessary controversy that has engulfed Dr Boutros Ghali only eight months into his stewardship of the world body.

The former Egyptian foreign office minister objected that he had not been consulted about the resulting peace accord and rejected a key provision calling for heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina to be placed under UN control. He summoned the five great powers at the UN to warn them against increased UN involvement in the former Yugoslavia, and took his case directly to a stunned Security Council.

There he accused council members of focusing on the "rich man's war" in the former Yugoslavia at the expense of Somalia, where 1.5 million people are facing starvation. The council agreed to seek action on Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia. Dr Boutros Ghali revived the dispute by rounding on his critics and claiming that he was being misinterpreted "maybe because I'm a Jew".

In that interview with The New York Times, Dr Boutros Ghali tried to present himself as the champion of the neglected Third World doing battle with the "colonial" powers of Europe. Third World countries moved last night to distance themselves from his claim. Diego Arria, Venezuela's ambassador, announced that he would ask non-aligned countries to set the record straight by holding a meeting with Dr Boutros Ghali.

"As time goes by, there will be an historical record that will distort the facts and show the secretary-general committed to the cause of the Third World and us committed to the cause of Britain," he said. "It would not be true." Non-

aligned council members resent the fact that Dr Boutros Ghali is blaming the council for stalling on Somalia, where as it was he who delayed presenting his recommendations for action for weeks.

Djibouti, head of the Horn of Africa nations, has already approached Britain to disassociate itself and its neighbours from Dr Boutros Ghali's criticism of the council members. Cape Verde, last month's president of the security council, asked UN officials three times in the course of his presidency if the Somalia report was ready. It was published only the day after a press report pointed out that it was over-

due. Dr Boutros Ghali's move to broaden his dispute with the council over Bosnia-Herzegovina into one involving Somalia and the question of priorities between the rich North and the poor South has surprised almost all diplomats at the UN. Third World diplomats observe that almost his first act on taking office was to unbury the economic and social officials at UN headquarters by merging them into a single department in what was widely regarded as a pro-Western reform.

One Western diplomat suggested that the reason Dr Boutros Ghali was so keen to get UN action on Somalia was that he had a "bad conscience" about his failure to obtain a settlement when it was part of his personal duties at the Egyptian foreign ministry. Council members are now waiting for the controversy to die down, hoping that Dr Boutros Ghali will do nothing more to fan the flames.

In London, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, voiced Britain's support for Dr Boutros Ghali, calling him a man of stature and style and pledging Britain was on his side. Mr Hurd predicted on BBC Radio 4 that Dr Boutros Ghali was going to be a "very effective" secretary-general.

Diary, page 10  
Leading article and letters, page 11



Shelter from the storm: a nurse, Annemarie Wenke, cuddles one-year-old Durmo Vermina, one of the Bosnian orphans taken from Sarajevo to Germany

## Rescued children suffering stress

FROM REUTER IN SCHÖNEBECK

BABIES and young children rescued from a Sarajevo orphanage and flown to east Germany yesterday are suffering from stress, shock and malnutrition, the head of a children's home said.

Waltraud Kasperczyk, head of a Catholic children's hostel in Schönebeck, near Magdeburg, said the 14 young refugees in her care were confused and agitated and many were unable to sleep. "The children are very stressed," she said. "The ones who can sleep do, but others simply have to be carried around because they start crying every time the nurse puts them down."

The children were part of a group of 42 who finally reached safety yesterday after a gruelling three-day journey by bus and plane from the besieged Bosnian capital. They were brought out in a controversial rescue operation organised by two German politicians which was criticised by both the United Nations and the Bonn government.

Home for 14 of the children for the foreseeable future will be a spartan two-storey hostel on a country road outside the grimy town of Schönebeck.

Journalists were not allowed to see the new arrivals, but the hall of the building echoed with their cries. Although officials said earlier the children were aged from six months to six years, Frau Kasperczyk said some were as young as two months.

She said four of the children had been taken to hospital immediately on arrival. One had been put on an intravenous drip and the other three were suffering from severe stress. "The smaller children have survived this better than the older ones, who were more aware of the experience," she said. "The only thing we can do for them at the moment is to try to keep them calm." A basic priority would be to feed them and restore physical strength after weeks sheltering in a cellar of the orphanage in Sarajevo.

Frau Kasperczyk said she had been inundated with gifts of teddies and dolls and offers of help. Officials said the children will not be put up for adoption, but repatriated when peace returned.

## Three-letter word causes offence

By PHILIP HOWARD

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, has, undiplomatically, suggested that British criticism of his policy towards Bosnia-Herzegovina occurs, "maybe because I'm a Jew".

In fact, as a Copt married to a Jewess, he is not a Jew in the extreme acceptance of the nasty little racist put-down at all. Gypso, yes, in the undergrowth of English schoolboy slang, since he was born in Egypt.

The British servicemen and administrators in the Canal Zone, from whom little Boutros picked up the insult, have much to answer for. They meant no particular offence with their nicknames for the subject races of the empire, and called each other far more derogatory names with a kind of rough affection. But the position of superiority

from which they spoke turned their games into patronising insults, which have struck bitter roots in the folk memory of races as proud as the English.

It was all so arrogantly unintentional. Asked who had just driven by, the British

sergeant in Alexandria said: "Only a couple of wogs." Appalled, his officer said: "You can't say that. That was King Farouk." "All right," said the sergeant. "King Farouk and another wog."

The origin of wog is hotly disputed by amateur word-smiths, each convinced that he is right, but with no satisfactory solution. It is said to be an acronym, but none of the suggested etymologies is

satisfactorily supported by the evidence. Worthy Oriental Gentleman and Wily Oriental derivations. Another is War Office Ganger, used to describe the workers building the railroad in India.

The word has clearly been influenced by goliwog, for which wog is a nursery shortening, now purged from American children's books.

The written records show that the word was invented in shipping circles at the end of the last century as an epithet to describe "a lower-class Babu shipping clerk on the Indian coast". Thereafter the nasty little word spread its connotation to embrace any native of the Indian subcontinent, and thence as a vulgarly offensive name for any foreigner, as in, "Wogs begin at Calais".

## Labour calls for redoubled efforts

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's assertion that he does not detect support for a British military involvement in the Yugoslav conflict touched a chord with many politicians yesterday after the shelling at the murdered children's funerals.

With parliament in recess and news changing by the hour, there is no consensus on further action. Many MPs would like to see Mr Major adapt his initiative on safe havens for the Kurds to give Yugoslav refugees a sanctuary near their homeland.

Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, said: "Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, must redouble his efforts, both through the European Community and the United Nations, to bring about an immediate ceasefire."

Reaction

□ Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, a former Conservative defence minister, said: "He [John Major] is right to heed military advice."

□ Peter Shore, former Labour cabinet minister and member of the Commons foreign affairs committee, said: "There seems to be a case for making certain that relief and other supplies get through."

□ Paddy Ashdown said: "We are moving towards the last chance of stopping the spread of the war."

□ Ken Livingstone, Labour MP for Brent East, said he stood by his call for Nato forces to eliminate Serb units: "You cannot cope with a land war because it is perfect guerrilla terrain."

## Frontline role is forced on the press

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK

TERRIFYING television footage of a BBC crew battling to save a wounded woman, as more Serbian mortars exploded at the feet of children in a Sarajevo cemetery yesterday, vividly brought home the frontline role journalists have been forced to play in an indiscriminate sniper war.

With screams echoing all round him, BBC TV's Jeremy Bowen reported the attack as Kevin Connolly, BBC's radio correspondent, struggled desperately to stop the woman's gushing wounds. Helped by other crew members and civilians, he carried her into a bullet-proof television car emblazoned with the Union Jack and sped off for the hospital as the cameras rolled.

Snipers in Bosnia do not discriminate between civilians and journalists. Sandy McIntyre, an ITN producer who has covered the war in Vukovar, Dubrovnik and Sarajevo, said: "Until Sarajevo, I never felt that they were aiming at me. In Sarajevo, the snipers aim at everyone."

Neither the BBC nor ITN is sending crews into the battle without proper first aid. Correspondents and crews are also given helmets, high-velocity bullet-proof vests and other body armour. The BBC also has a bullet-proof vehicle.

But neither broadcaster has provided its crews with any specific war training. "There are no lessons in SAS-style wriggling through the gunfire," said Robin Staniforth, ITN's foreign editor. "Other than basic first aid, I'm unaware of anything anywhere other than on-the-job training."

The war in Yugoslavia has been the most dangerous war for journalists in history, with proportionally more photographers, correspondents, cameramen and producers killed or injured than in any other war, according to the International Federation of Journalists. At least 24 have been killed, scores more wounded.

Chris Cramer, the BBC's head of news, said: "No story is worth getting killed for. But just being there, whatever the precautions that are taken, is highly dangerous. Every day we review whether our correspondents should come back."

Mr Staniforth said: "The fact that journalists have themselves become targets has also meant that journalists have become involved in the story to the point of assisting or trying to save people." Mr McIntyre, who works with ITN's Michael Nicholson, said: "If someone gets shot in front of you, you've got a humanitarian duty to help."

The BBC said it sends journalists to Yugoslavia only if they have been there before. But experience covering wars was not what prevented Martin Bell, a BBC correspondent, from getting hit by a bullet which whizzed past his shoulder as he did a live interview for BBC Breakfast News last April. Nor did experience help Sebastian Rich, the ITN cameraman who lost his hearing in one ear after a rocket-propelled grenade sent a glass shard through his jaw.

Mr Cramer said: "Martin Bell has covered 22 wars and he says this is by far his worst experience. It's out of control. It's completely random. Only a few weeks ago the BBC edit suite suffered a direct hit. Our suite was taking a leak, otherwise he would have been gravely injured. But here's the rub. It's important too."



# Finding God in the classroom

Bryan Appleyard wonders if faith can be taught in a secular society

According to Baroness Blatch, "Schools have a vital role in promoting pupils' spiritual and moral development." The education minister's consultative paper, published yesterday, adds that "proper regard should continue to be paid to the nation's Christian heritage."

This is a radical statement indeed: schools must teach people to be good and they must teach Christianity. Even after the shocks of the Thatcher years, it is hard to imagine a more revolutionary idea emanating from a post-war British government.

There are hard and soft liberal cases against the traditional teaching of religion in schools. The hard case is that religion is a bad thing, destructive, divisive and frequently murderous. After Freud it is most rationally seen as a neurotic delusion, no longer viable in a scientific age. In this hard view even teaching religion as a cultural curiosity is damaging as it will interfere with the humanist ideal of clear-sighted, undecieved objectivity.

From this perspective Labour's Baroness Blatch, who has been in the past spoken in favour of making all state schools secular, "Religious teaching," she has said, "is then left to the churches and other religious bodies." In other words: you believe what you like, that is no concern of the state which is necessarily neutral on such matters. The soft liberal case, defended by many clergymen, is that religion should certainly be taught, but only in deference to the "multi-cultural society".

Confronted with Hindu, Muslim and Sikh children, it becomes racist to emphasise Christianity. Teaching religion, in this context, becomes either factual and historical or an attempt to impart the idea of a generalised religious view. "The purpose of religious education," one liberal clergyman has said, "is to reflect on the purpose of life." In other words: religion is simply the universal sense of awe and longing for depth and meaning.

The government, however, rejects both these views and insists that it has a moral and spiritual role and a commitment to the privileged position of Christianity. This is a populist idea: a large number of determined and articulate parents have been offended by the anti-Christian posture of some teachers. The opinion poll discovery that many children leave school knowing nothing of God Friday or Pentecost Pledge inspires an anxiety, even among non-believers, that they are being sent into the world rootless and rudderless. It is now commonplace to hear middle-class atheists say that it is better to have something to reject than to have nothing.

But there is more than populism at work here, there is the underlying conviction that liberalism has failed. Soft liberalism, for example, was tied in knots by the

Salman Rushdie affair. While well-meaning Christians were soberly assessing the virtues of neighbouring faiths, fundamentalist Muslims were blithely rejecting their overtures. Liberalism, said the Muslims, is itself a faith and one inimical to Islam. Rushdie is guilty so we can kill him because we possess the one and only truth.

Hard liberalism, meanwhile, founders on its own spurious ideal of neutral objectivity. You cannot exclude values from the classroom because they are everywhere. The humanist, said T.E. Hulme, rejects heaven and hell only to replace them with heavens and hells more to his liking. In practical terms this means one has to make a large number of authoritative value judgments if one is to teach anything. Freedom, objectivity and self-expression are just the feel-good words of another faith and one that has palpably failed to produce an educated population. But liberalism in all its forms, these days, almost too soft a target for the Tory educationists. Ridiculing "trendy" teachers is a standard party conference as are rallying cries for a return to "traditional values". With a decent majority and another four years, why not give the home crowd a bit of easy fun? Fair enough, but John Patten and Lady

## The Tory nostalgia for the Prayer Book and the Authorised Version is entirely vacuous

Blatch ought to be aware that they are aiming terribly high. It is one thing to decide that a unifying spiritual and moral norm is required in education, quite another for government to specify that norm. For the real enemy of religion in education is not liberalism but unbelief.

Britain is not a religious place. It is likely that a majority of the Tory conference fodder, as they bay for traditional values, as well as most of the Cabinet are atheists. The nostalgia they feel for the English hymnal, the Book of Common Prayer and the Authorised Version is terribly nice and respectable and entirely vacuous in religious terms.

The easy way out of this for the atheist Tory is to insist that Christianity is the most important historical and cultural force in our society and must be taught as such. English Christianity, in particular, has been responsible for some of our greatest literature and most of our finest architecture. Such an insistence is right and it is a much tougher and truer educational ideal than either hard or soft liberalism.

But is it realistic Patten and Blatch are aspiring to impose a spiritual norm which for most, even of their supporters, is only a cultural one. They are aspiring to resurrect religion as a socially unifying force amid the widespread conviction that it is untrue. Perhaps they think faith will be taught under this new dispensation. That is to aim even higher. But why not? There is too much realism in government these days and what is the alternative?

## Pointless on-the-spot interviews on BBC news are driving Matthew Parris mad

Last Friday at 8.02 Joan Sidebottom became, very briefly, a national figure. Few of us knew her, and, unless we call at her DIY shop in Milton Keynes, few of us ever will. A pity, because speaking on the BBC Radio 2 news she sounded a nice lady. Let the newreader, Patrick Lunt, explain. I have obtained transcript and tape.

"Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire is at the centre of a major terrorist alert this morning after the discovery of seven fire bombs in the main shopping complex. The devices were planted in a public library and in a number of shops, including a toy shop. Two exploded, one in British Home Stores and the other in Habitat. Some damage was caused but no one was hurt. Several hundred people who live and work in the area have spent the night in emergency accommodation while the security operation continues. Among them is the owner of a DIY shop, Joan Sidebottom."

At this point, capital letters in my BBC script, "INSERT SIDEBOTTOM." Patience! We shall. But first let us agree that Mr Lunt's script is in the best traditions of BBC plain English: clear,

# Radio sound and fury

fair, cool and informative. Nothing yet has grated on ear or intellect. So why, after only 20 seconds of this, do we go over to Joan Sidebottom? What has she to tell us? Take it away, Joan:

"You feel that you're, er, violated, I suppose, in a way, and it's very disturbing. It's, er, very disturbing, er, especially in a place like Milton Keynes which is, er, a big place and, er, a very vulnerable place in many ways, and it's quite alarming. Er, we never thought it would happen to us, but I suppose, er, it had to happen sometime."

And we return to Mr Lunt. But perplexed, for this is a terse summary of the world's news. Much remains to be packed in. A question, therefore, arises: Why? Why insert Sidebottom?

Let us be clear that for Joan personally we feel nothing but respect, we neither doubt what she has said nor suppose that there is anything else she reasonably could have said, in the circumstances — which were that the person with a fluffy microphone and about

£20,000 a year, thrust the mike into her face and asked her how she felt.

We have every sympathy with how she felt. But, it is of no consequence how she felt. Joan Sidebottom is beside the point. She is redundant. Joan Sidebottom is a distraction, an irrelevance, fatuous, spurious, a dead end. Joan Sidebottom is a mistake, so how come she demands the nation for a sizeable chunk — 21 seconds to be precise — of a seven-minute world news roundup? How big was her audience at 8.02 — two million? Multiply by 21 seconds. Inserting Sidebottom wasted eight months of the nation's time. Why do it?

I will tell you why. It is called Actuality. It is bound up with a fashionable and growing assumption among broadcasters that our audience will lose interest unless we transport them to the scene. Forsaking mankind's invention of reported speech we hurry into our hats and coats, and we go there. It is a thoroughly inefficient way

of conveying information: but a mass audience is no longer expected to follow stories it cannot in some sense "witness". So the news itself — the facts, the background, the explanation — must stop and wait, while we "witness" something "from the scene". Never mind the argument, never mind making sense of it, separating the salient from the extraneous: just give them actuality and they will sit up. Show them and they will believe.

Of course, as everyone in broadcasting knows, actuality is easier to fake than explanation. But that is what the suckers want so you give it them. Who cares whether doing so yields anything you could not have told them calmly from the studio in half the time. That is not the point. The point is being there: the point is action, movement, dramatic noises. As though we were toddlers in playpens, our broadcasters keeping our interest with a desperate show of rattle, sounds and "colour". Don't ask what they mean. Never mind the

quality, feel the actuality. It stems from the growing primacy of television in broadcasting: the tyranny of the visual.

Television is pictures: actuality made flesh. The young John Birt made a brave case for intelligent television but it was against the grain of the medium. For a million years humans have closed their eyes when they wanted to think. Now they must block their ears, too, to Joan Sidebottom on the radio. It is not as if radio can compete. In this, with television. Trying to construct actuality out of noises, radio is doomed to be second best. TV without the pictures, mere soundtrack. Radio is a separate medium, another world, or it is nothing.

Millions of years ago the invention of speech unshackled us from the primacy of things seen and introduced us to things unseen: to ideas, memories, priorities, abstractions: the concept of meaning. It brought us down from the trees. Now comes a new invention: a medium rooted in the reproduction of pictures: it will send us back up again. No broadcaster with a career eye on the microphone rather than the camera would have dreamt of inserting Sidebottom.

# Europe's bloodstained lies

Bosnia is reaping the whirlwind of the EC's mendacity in the Balkans, says Daniel Johnson

Death rides high when politicians lie. Ten years ago, on a visit to Coventry, Pope John Paul II declared: "Wars should belong to history." For a man who can recall the Nazi occupation of Poland, last night's harrowing television pictures from Sarajevo might have told an old story. For most of us, they plumed new depths of depravity. An aged woman was hit by shrapnel during her granddaughter's funeral in a graveyard that had been deliberately bombed by Serbian artillery. The child's mother was distraught; hardened reporters wept.

Many viewers are bound to ask: how is this possible in Europe, among people with whom we have so much in common, in 1992? These women and children seem to have been abandoned to their fate, victims of the indifference or worse of the world's most eminent statesmen. We have been lied to from the beginning. And the lies have got bigger. Every one was an excuse for inaction.

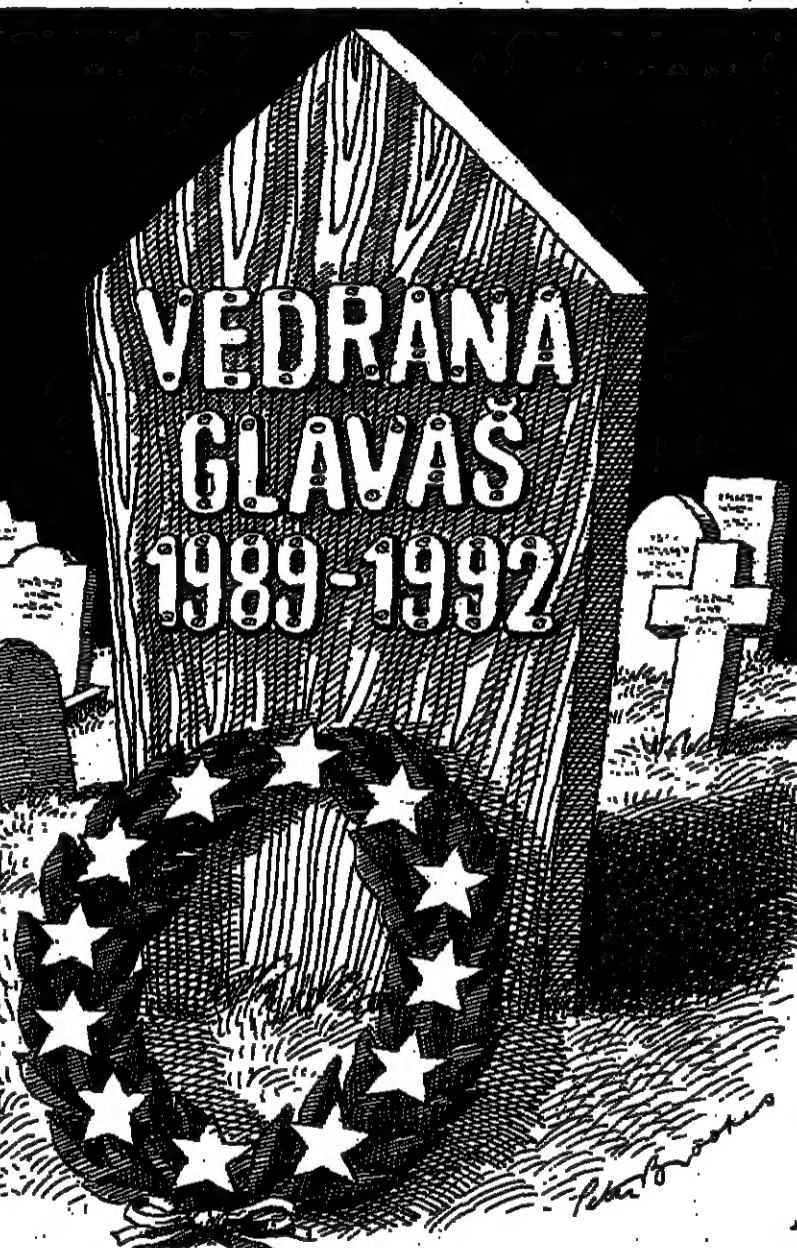
The first big lie was that Yugoslavia must at all costs be preserved. Until the last minute, June 1991, the western powers backed the moribund federal government. James Baker's last minute warning to the Croats and Slovenians not to break up Tito's legacy was taken by the Serbs to mean that America (and probably the European Community) would not intervene. But the fictitious entity of Yugoslavia had become a tool of those Communists, led by Slobodan Milosevic, who had staked their political survival on the creation of a Greater Serbia at the expense of the breakaway republics. After Slovenia resisted the onslaught of the Yugoslav army, war was stepped up against the real enemy: Croatia.

Once Lord Carrington's peace mission had been despatched after the real war against Croatia began in July, the next big lie started to

circulate in the European chancelleries. This was the claim that recognition of the republics' independence would antagonise the regime in Belgrade and bring down a frightful retribution on the mixed populations of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Croatian government of Tudjman in Zagreb did not impress European leaders, and most were reluctant to grant it legal status. They let the Serbs carry out ethnic cleansing in large areas of Croatia. Still the EC did nothing.

As the horrors visited by the Serbs on the cities of Croatia multiplied, the next big lie emerged: international recognition need not entail military intervention. Believing this, Germany increased pressure for recognition — disastrously, because no security arrangements to protect the defenceless had even been contemplated. A United Nations arms embargo operated in favour of the better prepared aggressor. The strength of Croatian resistance in the sieges of Vukovar, Dubrovnik and Osijek during the autumn made plausible the notion that it would be enough to leave the new republics to look after themselves.

On December 17, a reluctant EC Council of Ministers, whipped into line by the German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, recognized Croatia and Slovenia, paving the way for Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia to seek similar status, as they duly did. The Serbian regime, by now cynical about the probable western response, provided the



logical support to enable the ethnic Serbs of Bosnia to carve out as large a chunk of "purified" territory as possible. As the new year wore on, Bosnia became a worse charnel house even than Croatia. The Muslims suffered most. By August 1992, most of the population of the Bosnian mini-state was in exile, in Serbian

concentration camps, or on the move. Nobody knew how many had died — certainly many thousands.

Having encouraged first one side, then the other, the EC found itself ignored. The stage was set for the fourth big lie, one which is still believed. Drawing analogies with Vietnam and Afghanistan, Euro-

pean politicians argue that the guerrilla war in Bosnia cannot be influenced by military intervention. The surgical strikes used against Iraq would, it was suggested, be ineffective against the Serbs, who would also exact a terrible revenge against the non-Serbian Bosnians and Croats in their power.

Innocited by their fatalism, paralysis gripped the statesmen, by now conscious of their responsibility. The sheer horror of the Bosnian massacres had by this time dawned on western public opinion. Economic isolation having failed to bring Serbia to its knees, military intervention was the logical next step. As in La Fontaine's fable, the European mice were all agreed that somebody should place a bell around the neck of the Serbian cat. But no body volunteered to do it.

The high-tech European armies and armoured forces are powerless, it seems, when confronted by a few thousand killers with Kalashnikovs. After the Warsaw Pact collapsed a year or two ago, much was heard of the British forming the principal element of a rapid deployment force for Nato, designed to prevent or at least to suppress this kind of bloodbath right under our noses. But the wreck of Bosnia lies outside the Nato area. The EC has no real policy; America is in the grip of elections.

So the old women of Sarajevo are left to bury the crumpled bodies of their grandchildren: and the children bury them in turn. It all ought to be consigned to history, which some say came to an end in 1989. But history has returned us this obscene anachronism, this creature of European hypocrisy and duplicity, with interest.



## ...and moreover PETER BARNARD

They need a larger coffee shop at Sainsbury's. I realised that the moment I discovered that Texaco is to introduce random drug testing for "selected staff". I can feel you groping for the connection. I can see that an oil company and a grocer do not spring into the mind as natural bedfellows, as twinned as the Bedders, as complementary as bacon and egg. Lateral thinkers, however, will be ahead of me. I will have reached the destination, will be wondering only as to the route.

I do not know how Texaco will select the staff, wild eyeballs and dreamy smiles being less than prevalent on a garage forecourt. Bound to spread, though: Shell, Elf, Esso, they'll all be at it. And they will probably test me, as I am regularly seen around forecourts, various, pumping fuel, checking oil, hunting for a tap to fill the watercan — why do all garages have an empty one? I expect a squad will pounce any day, excuse me, you have been selected at random.

Last straw, really. Probably never go out again. Too complicated out there, don't you think? Only yesterday I went out to buy some thinners, don't ask me, something to do with paint. Time was, you went through a door that tinkled when it opened and you said to a chap in a brown overall, you said, "tin of thinners please". He handed you one and you handed him some money and he put the money in a till without feeling

the need to hold it up to the light or lick it to test for suspect substances.

Now they say: "Which number?" Thinner comes in numbers, one to eight, or thereabouts. Why? Don't know. Chap in brown overall replaced by youth with deficient syntax in Tina Turner Private Dancer Tour T-shirt. He don't know, neither. "Don't know mate." He don't know why thinners come in numbers but he do know my name is Mate. One of those errors in the order of educational priorities that seems to have been left uncovered in John Patten's white paper.

As for Sainsbury's, well, I give up. I used to go, honest. New Man! Me to a T. Now my wife goes, every week, today as it happens. There she is now, filling the boot of her car on the way to Sainsbury's. Six days of newspapers in three plastic bags, a week of sundry bottles in three more plastic bags, some tin cans.

Sainsbury's are public spirited. They recycle. In the car park are several vast metal containers, they look as if they are waiting for a ship. One is marked PAPER, one GLASS, the third ALUMINIUM. The containers have slots. You arrive and start stuffing the paper, the glass, the cans through the slots. If you are wondering why an elderly woman is standing in the car park jumping up and down on aluminium cans, it is not because she has just failed a drugs test at Texaco. Or bought number six thinners when she

needed number four from an infant who called her love and snapped a £10 note in half while testing it for Clenbuterol. No, she is crushing her cans to get them in the slots.

Nor is she putting the plastic bags containing the paper into the container containing the paper. Having put the papers in the plastic bags at home she is now taking them out again. To encourage recycling the check-out girl at Sainsbury's will give you a penny for every plastic bag you bring back. Does not have to be a Sainsbury's bag, could be a W.H. Smith or a Habitat.

Fantastic deal, really. You spend £100 at Sainsbury's, plus the cost of the coffee needed to get your limbs working again after all that stuffing into slots and jumping up and down on cans. In exchange they give you 6p, plus six plastic bags full of food which you take home and consume so that you will have six plastic bags to put the papers and the bottles in to take to Sainsbury's next week so that you can get another 6p.

Too complicated. Sainsbury's sell newspapers, and drinks in aluminium cans. Give us a bigger coffee shop, somewhere to read the newspapers and drink the drink. Hey presto, no need to take them home and bring them back, thus reducing car usage and the chances of being pounced upon by the Texaco drugs squad. I look forward to an announcement from J. Sainsbury. Meantime, I am in, and staying in. Alan Corea is on holiday.

## King's move

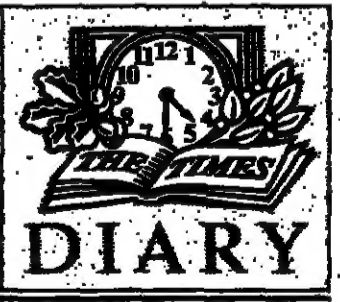
LORD OWEN, the former foreign secretary who rivalled Neil Kinnock for the title of Britain's most under-employed senior politician, is being considered for one of the top jobs in British education. Owen, who was widely expected to become governor of Hong Kong until Chris Patten lost his seat at the election, has emerged as the favourite for the post of principal at King's College, London.

Dr John Beynon, the last principal of the college, resigned abruptly in May after only 18 months in the job, and King's has since resorted to using headhunters for the first time in its 163-year history. After much thought, Tyack, the firm advising the search committee, has drawn up a shortlist, topped by Owen.

The search committee, which includes Professor Arthur Lucas, the college vice-principal, will forward one or two names to the prime minister's office, and John Major will approve the successful candidate. Lucas has ruled himself out of the principal's job on a permanent basis.

While most college lecturers would prefer a full-time academic, there is grudging recognition that someone of Owen's stature might prove invaluable in the political battles over funding and reorganisation that lie ahead. The college has a £4 million deficit, and is proposing to lay off staff and increase the number of its students. In government circles, there is increasing embarrassment about a man of Owen's abilities being unable to find a job.

Two internal candidates on the search committee's list are Lawrence Freedman, professor of war studies, and Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics. Dr



Peter Emery, secretary of the Association of University Teachers at King's, says: "A number of politicians have been linked to the post, but David Owen is the name that keeps cropping up. We support the idea of using consultants, because our main concern is that the best person for the job should be found."

Owen, who has been approached for a number of academic jobs in the past, knew nothing of this one. "It's news to me. I have not had an approach from anyone," he says.

## Presumed alive

AN Oscar Wilde award for optimism should go to the family of Raoul Wallenberg, the diplomat who, as first secretary of the Swedish legation to Hungary during the second world war, saved the lives of 20,000 Jews before disappearing 48 years ago. The rest of the world may have given up hope of ever seeing him again, but despite the odds his family has not. Yesterday a number of relatives and friends gathered in Budapest to celebrate Wallenberg's 80th birthday.

Jacob Wallenberg, his cousin, Guy von Dardel, his half-brother, and Per Anger, who worked with Wallenberg in Hungary, flew to Budapest for a day of commemoration.

A conference on Wallenberg and an exhibition of his photographs and papers were followed by a dinner in his honour.

Wallenberg, who was arrested by the advancing Red Army in 1945, later vanished in Moscow where it has been variously maintained that he died of a heart attack or was murdered by the KGB. But, according to Lewis Errington, currently researching material for a book on the Swede, members of the family still feel he may be alive. "There is still a slim chance that he may not be dead, and I think they are clinging to that," he says.

## TV Exclusive

THE 38 Gaelic-speaking actors on the books of Equity have found themselves in sudden demand. Unperturbed by the plummeting ratings of *Eldorado*, STV is pushing ahead with its new Gaelic soap, *Machair*. The television company is scouring the Isles for Gaelic speakers, but there is such a shortage that some with no more acting experience than the back of



the pantomime horse in Portree are being considered. Filmed on location in Lewis, the programme is scheduled to go out

once a week early next year at peak viewing time. English subtitles will be provided. With only 80,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, some are questioning the rationale of the project. STV counter-attacks by pointing to the popularity of its Gaelic cooking programme *Haggis Agus*, which is a proven success with 400,000 regular viewers. And should *Machair* fail to keep them glued to their sets north of Fort William, the experiment will have cost STV nothing: it is funded by the taxpayer out of the £9.5 million Gaelic Television Fund.

One candidate for a Golden Bull award from the Campaign for Plain English must be the BBC. This week's edition of *Ariel*, the corporation's in-house magazine, has an advertisement for a "human resources assessment technology corporate management development".

## Bread and wine party

PLANS for a memorial service for cookery writer Elizabeth David have set mouths watering. Mrs David's most avid admirers and fellow chefs, Anton Mosimann, Martin Lam of L'Escargot, Sally Clarke of Clarke's and Nico Ladensis are believed to be preparing an array of her culinary delights for the service, which is to be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields on September 10.

"Above all, Elizabeth would want simplicity rather than sophistication," says Michael Day, a close friend of the cookery writer. David's favourite foods, olive bread and an omelette with a glass of wine, are expected to form part of the bill of fare. There is speculation that guests will eat off their laps during the service. "She would certainly find such a send-off amusing," says Day.

Handwritten note: "John Major 1992"





## UNGODLY EDUCATION

John Patten began his cabinet career as education secretary in April with a lament for the decline in the fear of hell and damnation. Falling religious belief was a contributing factor in rising crime, he had claimed in an article in the *Spectator*. Yesterday his new department announced that the proposed education bill would contain measures to boost religious education in state schools. Not surprisingly, in view of the *Spectator* article, this was coupled with the need to encourage morality.

Britain is a plural society in which the secular predominates, though there is an odd tendency, shown in the popularity of church schools, for parents to want their children brought up in — or if not quite in, then adjacent to — a faith they do not themselves profess. They like to think that this will inculcate good behaviour. But there can be no simple equation of religion and morality. There is a relationship, certainly, but there have been too many godly scoundrels or upright atheists to make it a direct one.

The protocols governing religious education, in such a mixed society as Britain now is, are hard to arrive at and bound to beg some questions. To use the classroom for evangelism on behalf of the teacher's personal creed is not likely to be acceptable to parents — unless, by selecting a denominational school for their child, they have made that a deliberate choice. Otherwise, churches should look to their own resources out of school for the making of new recruits. The Church of England in particular has neglected to look to its next generation in this way. Mr Patten's bill cannot expect to repair that neglect. 1992's answers will inevitably be different from 1944's, when the phrase "religious instruction" virtually meant "teaching Anglican Christianity as true".

In a curriculum which claims to contain all the important things a child needs to know, however, neglecting religion makes an implied statement that it does not matter. Similarly, to treat all religions as equal, in the name of wayward notions of political correctness, can convey that they are all

equally untrue. Neither of these two common approaches is as unbiased as it pretends.

Nor can there be an unbiased approach to morality. Teaching the difference between right and wrong and encouraging individual and social virtue is a vital part of what schools are for. Mr Patten is starting a period of consultation before the religious and moral particulars of his new education bill are drafted, and respondents, from wherever they come on the doctrinal spectrum, would be well advised not to confuse the two.

Progressiveness in educational fashion has taken its toll here too. In the past schools have approached RE as a branch of ethics or civics or even sociology, to the detriment of religion. That can lead other teachers to regard morals as the specialist domain of the RE teacher, to the detriment of morality. It should be present in every lesson in every classroom, and no less in the playground, corridors and sportsfields of every school.

The 1988 Education Reform Act was nonetheless surely right to insist (as backbench amendments forced it to do) that henceforth RE should be mainly Christian. The culture and history of Britain, its art, music, law, literature, architecture, even political ideology, are incommensurable if the Christian dimension is left out. General ignorance of even the basic tenets and texts of Christianity is a modern educational scandal, the single most important reason for wishing well to Mr Patten's efforts to reinvigorate religious education.

To teach this dimension respectfully and sympathetically is not indoctrination, for fear of which many RE teachers have taken classroom neutrality too far in the other direction. But to convey sympathy requires skill, and skill requires training. RE is too important to be left to amateur enthusiasts in the staffroom. The long-term answer to the consultation Mr Patten has initiated is the need for more money for RE-teacher education. But until the content of RE has been rethought and refined, Mr Patten will be reluctant to put good money after bad. The debate must come first.

## UN STRONGMAN

There is an undeniably comic dimension to the ill-disguised astonishment in Western capitals as the secretary-general of the United Nations abandons his earlier posture of "humble servant" of the UN Security Council. He has castigated its richer members for their "Eurocentrism", inflated egos and double standards. Though Douglas Hurd uttered soothing words about the UN's need for a "strong man who knows his own mind", there is murmuring behind the scenes that the increased demands on the UN place great strains on Mr Boutros Ghali, who is under pressure from his "fellow Africans" to focus world attention on Somalia.

The truth is that in Boutros Ghali, governments thought when they appointed him last year that they had found a man as ebullient and fearless as his predecessor, Javier Pérez de Cuellar. Of him it used to be said that "he wouldn't make waves if he fell out of a boat". For all the talk about a revived UN within a "new world order", Mr Boutros Ghali owed his selection to all the UN's worst traditions of inertia and compromise. He seemed the very epitome of the civil servant.

To his immense credit, Boutros Ghali has astonished his backers. Within weeks of taking office he announced deep cuts in the UN secretariat and began the long overdue streamlining of its overlapping departments. The work has a good way to go, but he has achieved more in a few months than his predecessors have discussed in years.

He has tackled the UN's political tasks with courage and readiness to innovate, publishing an *Agenda for Peace* last month which frankly sets out what will be involved if the UN adds enforcement to its existing peacekeeping role. And he has broken with years of pusillanimous silence in the UN by insisting on the close connection between

democracy, open government and "true peace and security".

Such activism was bound to create enemies. Mr Boutros Ghali shrugs off criticism, saying "it is my job to be provocative". This is refreshing, and partly true, but in recent weeks he has ignored one rule he identified for himself in his *Agenda for Peace*: the need for a UN secretary-general to maintain a "pattern of trust and co-operation" with the security council and other UN bodies.

However justified his anxieties about the multiplication of UN peacekeeping tasks, he was ill-advised to pick a public quarrel over not being consulted on a security council decision to involve the UN in rounding up heavy weaponry in the Balkans. What is more worrying than the substance of this dispute, however, is his dismissal of this tragic and destabilising conflict as a "war of the rich" and a diversion from the UN's more important work in developing countries. He is right to challenge the West to say how it will pay both for Somalia and for Bosnia, wrong to say the "rich" are none of the UN's business, and reckless to play with Third World paranoia about Western "dominance" of the UN.

The rich world's renewed interest in and willingness to work through the UN is his greatest practical asset. Mr Boutros Ghali has many of the right ideas about dragging the UN into the 21st century. He will deny himself the opportunity to implement them if he sets himself up as the champion of only part of the UN's membership. No amount of institutional reform would compensate for such a failure of political realism. Mr Boutros Ghali has shown that he has energy and vision. He must be careful not to act in such a way that his judgment under pressure is called in question.

## THE PALACE HOTEL

Over five centuries, Hampton Court has been converted to many purposes, both useless and useful, from palace and centre of government to gallery and tourist attraction. The latest proposed conversion of two of its buildings to apartments for short-term rent falls into the category of useful. When the American billionaire boasts back home in Houston, "I always take my new bride to Hampton Court Palace for the honeymoon," he will unconsciously be repeating what Henry VIII said (several times) before him. The notion of putting Britain's heritage, of which there survives more than can be consumed locally, to imaginative new uses is a good one. It should be developed.

Nothing disturbs the British more than moving their office furniture or their preconceptions. But the idea that Hampton Court was built to be a dignified museum, and that it is therefore vulgar to convert it to short-let holiday homes, is quite unhistorical. The place was built by the original yuppie as a vulgar kind of garden suburb, the first big luxury development for executive-style riverside gracious living with nobles on. From its beginning it acted as a hotel for visiting nobles, in order to extract money or political favours from them. Thomas Wolsey's ostentatious five-star hotel by the Thames was so popular that the contemporary *Private Eye* lampooned it: "The King's Court should have the excellence. But Hampton Court hath the preeminence."

The splendour of Wolsey's hotel attracted the more dangerous eyes of Henry VIII, and shortly thereafter it was made over to him as a present, though this did not save its developer from disgrace and destruction. Then, for centuries, it was used as the

grandest palace in the land, where Britain's statesmen oft foredoomed the fall of foreign tyrants, and of nymphs at home. When the Hanoverian monarchs preferred Windsor to Hampton, it fell into genteel decay, and use as grace and favour residences, described (ungraciously) by William IV as poorhouses for the quality. Grace and favour, meaning gracious favour, is one of the very few living examples of hendiadys in English. But grace and favour houses have fallen from fashion. And Hampton Court is reverting in part to one of its earlier uses, as luxury hotel.

Paying guests will have to go through the same rigorous security screening as the staff who work there, and will be kept awake on summer nights by the monotonous *son et lumière*. They will be jostled by crowds of tourists. There will be elaborate arrangements to get in after the gates shut, and they will pay the surprisingly low rates of between £10 and £30 a head a night. In short, all will be much as it was when the cardinal entertained there and drank deep.

Buildings are best used for the purpose for which they were built. Ambitious tourists can already dine with a duke dolled up for the occasion at Woburn and other stately homes, for an appropriately dual emolument. The ghoulish modern passion for torture should be exploited by tenting out the dungeons of the Tower after dark to decapitation groupies, with a truss of straw the only bedding required, and stale bread and water as economical table d'hôte. But the ultimately grand hotel, with white-tie dinner and conversation with real royals, is going to be available for the foreseeable future only to heads of state on official visits. And they are by profession too mean to pay cash.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Time to update the United Nations?

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, At no time since its creation nearly 50 years ago have greater hopes been pinned on the institution of the United Nations. Increasingly, however, it looks as though such hopes may, in practice, be misplaced when viewed against the backdrop of the UN's repeated failures.

It has failed to sustain a peace settlement in Cambodia, or its own credibility in the Iraq conflict. It has failed to deal successfully with the Afghanistans refugees, or make progress in peace negotiations in the former Yugoslav republics. It has failed to galvanise the world community sufficiently in order to provide an adequate response to the effects of civil strife and famine in eastern and southern Africa.

Optimism about the future of the UN and its family of agencies rests largely on the supposed "opportunities" which stem from the ending of the Cold War. Yet, for many, it is pessimism, not optimism, which is the more natural response to the likely success of the UN as it attempts to grapple with the huge difficulties which face it in responding to these

same opportunities in a rapidly changing world climate.

What has recently become abundantly clear is the overwhelming need for some form of supra-national body, be that a United Nations or a similar institution. It is a need felt in particular on behalf of many of the most vulnerable people of the world, especially children.

Is it not now time to take a fresh look at the charter and the fundamental aims, objectives and organisation of the United Nations and its family of agencies in the light of a world that has, in the past two years, been changed beyond all recognition?

Is not now the time for all nations of the world to revisit San Francisco (where the United Nations, in its present form, first drew breath in 1945) and to build for the next generation a new United Nations, appropriately equipped to deal with the opportunities and problems of a post-Cold War age?

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS HINTON,  
Director General,  
The Save the Children Fund,  
Mary Daiche House,  
17 Grove Lane, Camberwell, SE5.

### African perspective

From Mr Frederick W. Peacock

Sir, Media coverage has highlighted Yugoslav problems at the expense of suffering in Africa. Famine, alas, is nothing new to countries of the Third World which have little to bargain with in return for aid. Yugoslavia, however, and the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe are seen as prospective markets by recession-hit economies of the West. Is it any wonder that help is pouring in?

Dr Boutros Ghali has attempted to redress the balance by requesting the Security Council (report, July 28) to "help resolve equally cruel and dangerous conflicts elsewhere, for example in Somalia". Far from gaining support, the manner of his approach has antagonised the council.

Can it be that the Western powers have manipulated the Security Council, in the hope that an early settlement in Yugoslavia might provide a springboard for their own stagnant economies to take off? Whatever the politics of the situation, disaster-struck regions of the world have no time to wait for peace to break out at the United Nations.

Yours sincerely,  
FREDERICK W. PEACOCK,  
8 North Jesmond Avenue,  
Brighton, East Sussex.  
August 4.

### Church divisions

From Canon Michael Bourdeaux and Dr Kent R. Hill

Sir, Jean Mayland's assertion (letter, July 30) that it was the World Council of Churches, not the present Pope, which was the main source of inspiration for Christians in the Eastern bloc is patently false.

Those of us who have for many years lived in or travelled frequently to Moscow encounter daily evidence that the WCC's stock has never been lower, nor has it ever been viewed as a strong defender of human rights or religious freedom.

Glasnost-era revelations have proven beyond any serious question that the WCC statements and actions over a period of 25 years consistently ignored or downplayed the persecution inflicted on the Christian community by the communist authorities.

The WCC was viewed internally as a prop for the status quo, not as a harbinger of positive change, let alone

a courageous defender of the downtrodden. The world scientific and literary communities were much more effective in defending their own than were their ecumenical Christian counterparts.

Those of us who believe in ecumenism have been hard pressed in recent months in Moscow to defend the ideal of true, solidarity-inspiring, ecumenism against the backdrop of the record of ecumenism in practice which Christians in Eastern Europe have been compelled to witness.

Nevertheless, we will persist in our conviction that the world Christian community can do better. But that will not be possible if we fail to tell the truth about the past.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BOURDEAUX  
(Director),  
KENT R. HILL  
(President, Institute on Religion and Democracy (Washington, DC)),  
33a Canal Street, Oxford.

### Library services

From Mr Thomas W. Scragg

Sir, I have enjoyed what I consider to be the privilege of a reader's ticket for the Reading Room at the British Museum since 1967 in order to consult material not available elsewhere in this country. I entirely agree with Miss Joanna Richardson's complaints (letter, July 28) about the change in atmosphere and standards since the present administration took over.

The British Library should most certainly be a library of last resort. However, all members of the Library Association (over 24,000 individuals) have recently been allowed to obtain reader's tickets, together with car breakdown, clothes and travel discounts, as one of its personal membership benefits. How this can be justified in a library of last resort is beyond me, but it probably reveals one attitude behind the changes that have taken place over the past years.

Yours faithfully,  
T. W. SCRAGG,  
The Woodcroft, Storeton Lane,  
Barnston, Wirral.  
July 29.

### Travellers' rights

From Mr Peter Birts, QC

Sir, While you are right to warn against over-reaction to the latest incursions by New Age travellers (leader, July 29) there is little doubt that existing remedies against mass trespass need revision if the law is to retain the confidence of the rural community.

Civil injunctions are the present means by which persons whom a landowner can identify and serve with court proceedings are prevented from committing trespass. But since it is usually impossible to identify, let alone serve, sufficient numbers of persons in advance, their effectiveness as a remedy against mass trespass is very limited. Moreover,

proceedings are too costly for most landowners; enforcement — by commitment for contempt — is a pointless exercise.

Injunctions should be available to prevent anyone who has no right to enter specified land from entering it: they should be binding on the world at large rather than on named parties to an action only. They should be applied for by local authorities on behalf of landowners rather than by individual landowners and they should have attached to them a power of arrest for actual or threatened disobedience.

Local authorities have long had power to take proceedings to protect the interests of the inhabitants of their area. They should now be given power to apply for *in rem* protection

### Questions on use of drugs in sport

From the Editor of the Bulletin of Medical Ethics

Sir, Last Saturday the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission (IOMC) announced that clenbuterol was a banned drug, and the suspension of two British weightlifters for taking it was confirmed. That announcement adds to the existing great confusion in the list of banned drugs. May I suggest some of the questions that the IOMC, and the Sports Council that administers the drug rules in this country, should now have to answer.

1. The principal reason given for banning clenbuterol is that it is anabolic (body-building). What is the scientific evidence that it is anabolic in man, rather than animals, and more importantly, what is the evidence that it has ever enhanced the performance of any athlete?
2. Clenbuterol is the first drug of its class (the ethanalamines) ever to be banned. Why, therefore, has it not been specifically named on the banned list?
3. Are all other ethanalamines — all of which have similar stimulant effects, and some of which may be anabolic in some species — also now banned? (Logically it would appear

that they must be, yet that would ban all normal treatments for asthma and effectively eliminate asthmatics from sport.)

4. One of the two headings under which the IOMC has banned clenbuterol is "androgenic anabolic steroids". Clenbuterol is neither androgenic (promoting male sexual characteristics) nor a steroid (a chemical structure with four carbon rings). Will the IOMC now ignore descriptors of other groups of drugs? For instance, group 1B is called "narcotic analgesics", but could any paracetamol, now banned if the IOMC so chooses?

5. Will the IOMC and the Sports Council ever acknowledge that they need expert advice from clinical pharmacologists (doctors who study the effects of drugs on man) in order to simplify, and make more logical, the banned list? The IOMC's drug regulations are now the only part of the Olympic movement that remains truly amateur.

Yours etc.,  
RICHARD NICHOLSON, Editor,  
*Bulletin of Medical Ethics*,  
31 Corsica Street, N5.  
August 3.

### Echoes of 1948

From Mr T. P. E. Curry, QC

Sir, I had the honour and good fortune to represent Great Britain in the 1948 Olympics in London. I did not do particularly well, but in those days it did not particularly matter. As one of the host team I met many other athletes who were enthusiastic, keen to do their best, and proud to represent their country.

For many of us the war had taken our best (athletic) years, but we still had fun, a sense of achievement and pride, and a recognition that the goal of Baron de Coubertin was a great goal: taking part, not winning, was the wonderful feature. My daughter who competed (more successfully than I) in the 1992 winter Olympics carries on the tradition.

To many this attitude may seem not only old fashioned but nostalgic

in fact it is, or should be, the true basis of sporting competition. I am not alone in feeling sadness at the changes that have come about, largely fostered by Britain's own leading athletes. Today the media and financial ambition drive athletes to the view that the important thing is to win and to gain worldly success from financial rewards.

My contemporaries and I had more fun and sense of achievement than modern athletes, with their "trust" funds and other gimmicks. We cannot put back the clock, but we can be proud of those (who can still be found) for whom taking part and doing one's best for one's country are still the best motivation.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,  
T. P. E. CURRY,  
Hurlands, Dunsfold, Surrey.  
August 1.

### Cost of dying

From the Reverend W. N. C. Girard

Sir, I have just received from the Church Commissioners advance notice of an increase in parochial fees, due to be implemented in January 1993 "subject to the completion of statutory procedures".

I suppose there is reasonable distinction between burial of a coffin (which takes up more space) and of cremated remains. But it is now being suggested that "cremated remains in an urn" (usually a box 13in x 8in x 6in) takes up much more room below ground than loose cremated remains in volume about the size of a bag of sugar.

Is it on "grounds of space" that a peculiar logic goes on to quantify at £5 the difference between the parochial church council fee for burial of "cremated remains in an urn" and that for "loose cremated remains"? This is, I think, the first time that such a distinction is being introduced into the table of parochial fees.

Even if those responsible could explain such a distinction "in the abstract", that still leaves clergy and undertakers to explain "at point of bereavement".

Yours etc.,  
W. N. C. GIRARD,  
The Rectory,  
Balsham, Cambridgeshire.  
July 30.

### British Rail sale

From Sir Christopher Pinsent

Sir, I read Richard Hope's article, "The threat of safety" (July 31), on the sale of British Rail with respect and fear.

A citizen should be able to tell (as 90 years ago could Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson) how to get from Tiverton to Fakenham, from Corwen to Cranleigh, or from Helston to Horncastle simply by reaching for one national timetable.

He should be able to make such journeys at reasonable cost and without a car — for he may be unable or unwilling to drive a car.

Is it not astonishing that, with all the technological experience we could summon, we seem to be entering a yet darker, unfairer and more wasteful age in the simple business of getting from one place to another?

I have no hesitation in blaming the stupidity, blindness, cynicism, cravenness and feebleness of successive governments, including our present one, for neglecting our right to be able to get about.

Such neglect is a failure to uphold part of the fair civilisation to which I believe we wish to subscribe.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER PINSENT,  
The Chestnuts, Castle Hill,  
Guildford, Surrey.  
July 31.

### Trains to Blackpool

From the Secretary of Arthritis Care

Sir, There is one other reason for keeping InterCity trains going to Blackpool, besides the splendid traditional ones in your editorial, "Illumination cancelled" (August 4). Every Wednesday (to avoid weekend congestion) groups of people from all over the country, including the south and east, set off to go to Arthritis Care's biggest and most popular hotel, at Blackpool.

This hotel is specially adapted for people with arthritis, and for many of the guests it is their only holiday, perhaps even their only outing, of the year. They cannot drive, and they cannot endure a long coach journey. They could go by train to Blackpool.

Recently some have had to change at Preston, where the InterCity trains are supposed to stop for one minute only. Try getting off a train in one minute when you walk only with pain and difficulty, or when you and your wheelchair and your luggage have to be got out of the train by your one helper.

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. COLLINS, Secretary,  
Arthritis Care,  
18 Stephenson Way, NW1.

### Head of steam

From Mr Peter Royle

Sir, A subsidised train for politicians direct from Euston to Blackpool (leading article, August 4)? Yes, yes, yes — on condition it is clearly labelled "The Gravy Train".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER ROYLE,  
3 The Coombe, Old Road,  
Galmpton, Brixham, Devon.

Business letters, page 19

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
August 4: The Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen was received in audience by The Queen.

Lady Stephen was also received by Her Majesty.  
The Earl of Mansfield and Marquess of Epsom, Chairman of the Crown Estates Commission, was received by The Queen.

The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady-in-Waiting to The Queen.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
August 4: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Ruth, Lady Ferny, has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

**Today's royal engagements**  
The Princess of Wales will visit St Oswald's Hospice, Regent Avenue, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 11.45; as Patron of Relate, will visit the Relate Centre at MEA House, Newcastle, at 12.40; as President of Barnardo's, will visit the New Families and Orchard Projects in Jesmond, Newcastle, at 1.55; and will visit the Somerville Family Centre in Longbenton, Newcastle, at 3.20.

**Bowyers' Company**  
The following have been elected officers of the Bowyers' Company for the ensuing two years: Master, Mr Christopher Ballenden; Upper Warden, Mr James F.G. James-Crook; Renter Warden, Mr Peter Begent.

**Appointment**  
Mrs Mary Moore has been elected to succeed Sir Henry Fisher as Chairman of the Pilgrim Trust.

## Birthdays today

The Hon Charles Allsopp, chairman, Christie, Manson and Woods, 52; Professor Neil Armstrong, first man on the moon, 62; Mr Billy Bingham, soccer manager, 61; Professor Sir Michael Brady, former president, Royal College of General Practitioners, 66; Miss Barbara Flynn, actress, 44; Major-General W.H. Hargreaves, physician, 84; Miss Jacquetta Hawkes, archaeologist, 82; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 86; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 55; General Sir Peter Inge, 57; Sir Michael Kerry, QC, former Proc-

uror General and Treasury Solicitor, 69; Sir Bert Millichip, chairman, FA, 78; Mr Rodney Patison, chairman, 49; Mr K.P. Pearson, headmaster, 60; Professor Sir Michael Rutherford, 51; Sir Eric Pountney, chairman, Tarmac, 59; the Hon Miriam Rothschild, entomologist, 84; Mr Rob Saunders, rugby player, 24; Mr Nicholas Scott, MP, 39; Lord Selson of Garsdon, 77; Miss Theodora Turner, former mayor, St Thomas's Hospital, 85; Mr John Whitaker, showjumper, 37.

## Computers conspire to fuddle human brain

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHIEF CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTER programmers and their electronic protégés will gather in the Park Lane hotel, London, today for an all-out assault on the human brain in a wide variety of thinking games.

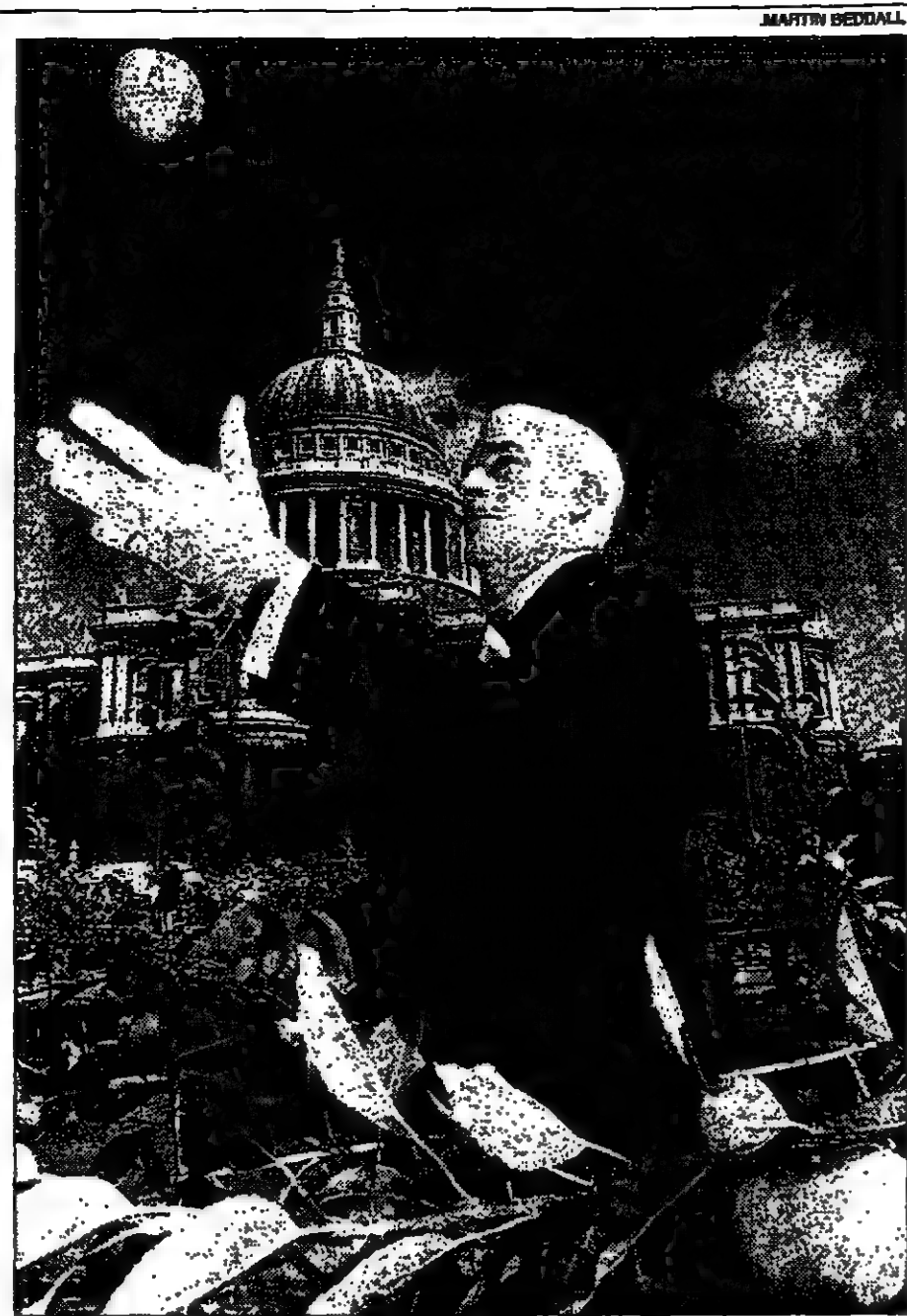
More than 50 computers, with their human minds, from Russia, Latvia, China, Britain, America, Germany, France and elsewhere, will be competing in the fourth AST Computer Olympiad, which runs until next Tuesday.

Since the first Computer Olympics in 1989, the event has attracted many of the world's top artificial intelligence programmers. Participants have brought with them programmes in chess, draughts and bridge, some of which are already capable of demolishing the leading human experts in their chosen games.

The olympiad also acts as an important stimulus for work in heuristic programming, a branch of artificial intelligence which seeks ultimately to enable computer programmes to solve any problem more efficiently than the best human minds.

David Levy, organiser and founder of the Computer Olympiad, said that the event had become the catalyst for remarkable advances in intelligent computing.

A disturbing aspect of the



Apple turnover: Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, shows off skills rarely called upon in office at the launch of this season's crop yesterday

## City tastes the first fruits of a bumper British apple harvest

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FRUIT growers celebrated the start of what promises to be a bumper English apple harvest yesterday by creating a one-acre orchard in the shadow of St Paul's Cathedral in London. Passing City workers were presented with red Discoveries, the first of the season.

Teams from orchards and retailers carrying baskets of the fruit raced each other at dawn from New Covent Garden at Nine Elms to Old Change Court where some 350 pot-grown saplings with apples tied to their branches had been laid out overnight.

Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, handed out prizes to the winners and predicted that the event could come to rival the annual Beaulieu race. A selection of Discovery apples were later presented to the Queen Mother at Clarence House to mark her 92nd birthday.

Now the most widely grown English dessert apple after Cox's Orange Pippin, Discovery is of fairly recent origin. The apple was hit upon by chance by a Mr Dummer in his garden at Langham, in Essex, in the 1940s when he crossed a Worcester Pearmain with what is thought to have been a Beauty of Bath.

Crisp and juicy in flavour, the Discovery lasts only from late July to September. It will be followed into the shops by the Katy and Worcester varieties which ripen in September and last for about a month. The Katy was developed 40 years ago, while the strawberry-scented Worcester dates from 1873.

Spartan, another September-ripening apple, has a longer season, lasting until Christmas. Credited by its devotees with a "perfumed winey flavour", the Spartan is a Canadian import that has grown rapidly in popularity since being introduced here 30 years ago.

David Browning, who has 400 acres of orchard near Paddock Wood, Kent, and is vice-chairman of English Apples and Pears, the promotional body which organised yesterday's event, said: "We are expecting a vintage year for English apples and an explosion of flavour. Supermarkets are now offering a far bigger range of English varieties."

England's apple growers are fighting an uphill battle against foreign competition. Only 40 per cent of the apples we eat are home-produced. Last year Britain earned £11 million from apple exports but spent £220 million on imports, mainly of the French-grown Golden Delicious.

Malcolm Schofield, managing director of Home Grown Fruits Ltd, the biggest fruit co-operative in the country, said: "We cannot compete in volume and so we must persuade consumers to pay more for the variety and better flavour of England's short-season apples."

Out of more than 2,300 English apple varieties still known to exist, only nine are grown commercially in any quantity. Cox's, first grown in 1825, accounts for two-thirds of home-grown domestic dessert apples.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.T. Evans

and Miss V.R. Walker Sloan. The engagement is announced between William Thomas, elder son of Mr and Mrs W.I. Barton, of Bramshott, Liphook, Hampshire, and Victoria Ruth, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.K. Walker Sloan, of Rogate, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr J.R. Bell and Miss P.M.E. Woods. The engagement is announced between John Bell, only son of Mr and Mrs John Bell, of Truro, Cornwall, and Penelope, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Woods, of Sudham, West Sussex.

Mr N.L. Hutton-Pennam and Miss C.H. Hardy. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Ian Hutton-Pennam, of Sonning Common, Berkshire, and Clare, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Douglas Hardy, of Bournemouth-on-Crook.

Mr S.J. North Lewis and Miss H.M. Johnson. The engagement is announced between Selby James, only son of Mr and Mrs J.S. North Lewis, of Walwick Hall, Hunsbrough, Northumberland, and Harriet Mary, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.S. Johnson, of Rise Grange, Stirling, East Yorkshire.

Mr E.O.K. Temple-Morris and Miss S.L. Campbell. The engagement is announced between Dominic Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs T.P. Temple-Morris, of Wotton, Surrey, and Miss Edith Campbell, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.M. Campbell, of Clifton, Bristol.

Mr D.C. Tonnalis and Miss S.L. Campbell. The engagement is announced between Dominic Charles, elder son of Mr and Mrs T.P. Temple-Morris, of Wotton, Surrey, and Miss Edith Campbell, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.M. Campbell, of Clifton, Bristol.

Mr T.D. Watson and Miss E.M. Kendall. The marriage of Timothy Watson and Miss Edith Kendall took place on Saturday, at St Peter's, Eaton Square.

Mr J. Hammond and Miss S. Shaznak. The marriage took place on Saturday, at St James's Place, Spanish Court, London.

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## Centre celebrates spirit of self-help

By JOHN YOUNG

PROSPERITY and progress have all but obliterated Reading's historic identity. Although nowadays it is perceived as little more than a modern boom town, blighted by traffic and undistinguished factory and office buildings, it was once a Danish encampment, later a medieval seat of learning and a Civil War garrison.

The Berkshire town also has connections with Ireland, ranging from the stationing of Irish Royalist troops during the Civil War to the imprisonment of Oscar Wilde, author of *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*. On a more mundane level it has, for more than a century and a half since the construction of Brunel's Great Western Railway, been a favoured destination for generations of Irish immigrants.

Millions of Irish, like their Scots and Welsh cousins, have assimilated into English society: some have long discarded their roots, but among others a sense of community still lingers, a spirit that led in the late 1970s to the founding of the Reading and District Irish Association.

Its aim is to encourage social and educational activities among the estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people of Irish descent in the area, and to promote Irish traditions, culture and language. From the start it emphasised its non-sectarian and non-denominational character and its determination not to become embroiled in religion or politics. Its leaders include Roman Catholics and Protestants from both sides of the border.

In 1981 a steering committee was set up to raise funds and seek a suitable site for a community centre. Reading council made a site available near the town centre for a peppercorn rent for five years. The association raised £25,000 through its own efforts and obtained a

£100,000 loan from the brewers Watney Combe Reid. It was, says John Conroy, a committee member, "a combination of begging, borrowing and self-help".

It was not all plain sailing. Matt Andrews, the building's architect, recalls the despatch of a letter from the council in the early 1980s when many doubted whether the project would ever be completed. Work eventually began in 1984, and the first phase, consisting of a large hall, bar and changing rooms, was completed three years later.

The second phase — a games room, a bar-restaurant, kitchen and cellar —

was opened last October. The use of volunteer labour, gifts of materials and equipment and the traditional building skills of the Irish, held construction costs to about £200,000. The building has been valued at four times that amount. The centre has more than 1,000 members with their families and the loan is being repaid.

Patrick Power, another committee member, stresses that not all the members are Irish or of Irish descent. Many older people come for the ballroom dancing. "Everywhere else is just disco," he says.

The Reading and District Irish Association Centre is among the entries for this year's Community Enterprise Scheme awards, sponsored by The Times, the Royal Institute of British Architects and Business in the Community.

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Telephone 071 481 4000

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## OBITUARIES

## NICANOR COSTA MENDEZ

Nicanor Costa Mendez, who was Argentina's minister of external affairs and religion during the Falklands crisis, died in Buenos Aires on August 2 aged 69. He was born in Buenos Aires on October 30, 1922.

AS HIS country's foreign minister at the time of Argentina's occupation of the Falkland Islands in 1982, Nicanor Costa Mendez found himself in a situation rich with paradox. He was an Anglophile who found himself the instrument of a particularly anti-British piece of Argentine foreign policy. An astute diplomat, he had the bad luck to serve a dictator, in General Galtieri, who had no real use for his gifts over and above their use to himself.

Although Costa Mendez, like any patriotic Argentinian, was utterly convinced of his country's rectitude in its claim to the Falklands, he had, in truth, little real stomach for the kind of anti-European sabre-rattling the Falklands



gambit represented. Perhaps under pressure from the speed and scale of events, he also made, in the upshot, diplomatic blunders. He did not foresee (who, perhaps, could have) the immediate and forceful nature of the British response to the invasion of April 2, 1982. He felt keenly what he saw as the apostasy of the United States in the matter of standing by a brother American nation. He was taken aback by the lack of tangible support from other Latin-American countries. Although he had deployed considerable diplomatic guile to obtain sympathy for Argentina's cause from among the members of the Organisation of American States, he was to find this counted for little once the issues had been put to the hazard of battle.

Born into a well-to-do Buenos Aires family, Nicanor Costa Mendez read law at Buenos Aires University and Columbia University, New York. He was an accomplished nationalist and fervently Roman Catholic and his foreign education and his prac-

tice as a corporate lawyer representing overseas companies operating in Argentina gave him an experience which was to prove useful to successive leaders of Argentina.

In 1962 he became adviser to Argentina's external trade secretary and was soon after made ambassador to Chile where he remained until 1964. From 1966 to 1969 he was minister of external affairs and religion, the post he was to hold again in 1981-82. He was also his country's delegate to the Organisation of American States and as such put forward a motion for the creation of an inter-American defence force. The OAS rejected his notion.

For a time this was the end of his politico-diplomatic career. He had been practising as a lawyer again for 12 years when he was summoned back to office by Galtieri in 1981. He always claimed that a "peaceful" occupation of the islands as a means of persuading Britain to the negotiating table was what had been on the agenda. In the event in a desperate gamble, as a means of diverting attention from his government's atrocities against its own population and restoring its popularity at home, Galtieri sped up this "negotiating process" and invaded the Falklands.

Costa Mendez, as Galtieri's apologist for this action in the outer world, was clearly disconcerted by the British reaction. At the United Nations in New York where he had to negotiate with Alexander Haig, American secretary of state and leader of the UN peace mission, he appeared humiliated by the fact that Galtieri's true intentions could not really be subjected to the diplomatic process to which he himself was instinctively wedded. The result was irritation from Haig at what seemed to be mere temporising by Argentina and the, in the end, fateful, resolve of President Reagan to support Britain in the conflict.

When, after the Argentine surrender on the Falklands on July 14, 1982, the armed forces ousted Galtieri, Costa Mendez, too, was dismissed from his post and was not to hold further office.

In later years he suffered a stroke and was confined to a wheelchair. He had been a victim of a polio epidemic which had swept the country in the 1950s, an event which had put an end to his participating in the sports he had so loved as a young man. He was an admirer of Britain and its culture, and the works of Shakespeare and Locke lined his walls. He was also fond of English clothes, especially when they adorned pretty women.

He married, in 1948, Mercedes Robirosa; they had two daughters.

## CARDINAL FRANTISEK TOMASEK

Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek, 34th Archbishop of Prague and Primate of Bohemia and Moravia, died yesterday in Prague aged 93. He was born on June 30, 1899.

ONCE called "an oak tree of the Holy Spirit" by Pope John Paul II, Tomasek was a strong leader of the Catholic church in Czechoslovakia through the difficult years of communism and the first years of post-communism. For Czechoslovak Catholics he was a beloved and respected father figure whose popularity seemed to increase with age.

His courage in defending religious and civil rights during the latter years of communism inspired many outside the church and won Tomasek the respect and admiration of civil rights groups, notably Charter 77.

Born in Studenka, a small Moravian village, Frantisek Tomasek was one of six children. On the death of his father, when Frantisek was seven the family moved to the city of Olomouc, where in 1918 he entered the seminary after completing military service. In 1922 Tomasek was ordained. A distinguished theologian, Tomasek was the author of 35 religious monographs and a best-selling Catechism of the Catholic Religion. From 1934 he taught catechetics at the Cyril-Methodius theology faculty, where he also studied for a doctorate in theology. The closure of Czech universities in 1939 interrupted his studies and he returned to school teaching. In 1945 Tomasek was able to return to the Cyril-Methodius faculty where he obtained a second doctorate. For the next five years he was professor of pedagogy and catechetics until the faculty was once again closed, this time by the communists.

In October 1949, shortly after the proclamation in Czechoslovakia of new laws severely limiting the Church's freedom, Pope Pius XII nominated Tomasek as Auxiliary Bishop of Olomouc. The state did not approve his appointment and two years later Tomasek was arrested and, along with most other Catholic bishops and half the priests in the land, interned in a hard labour camp.

On his release three years later Tomasek was appointed parish priest in the remote village of Moravská Huzova. While still a parish priest, Tomasek unexpectedly received state permission to travel to Rome to participate in the Second Vatican Council. He was the only Czech bishop to attend all four sessions.

When the Archbishop of Prague, Josef Beran, failed to return to Czechoslovakia after receiving his cardinal's biretta in Rome, Bishop Tomasek became apostolic administrator of the archdiocese on February 18, 1965. The move



to Prague was a daunting prospect for the Moravian bishop. Many years later he was to describe it as "a leap into the unknown".

Tomasek was the first church leader to welcome Dubcek's reforms in 1968 and in a telegram to the premier promised his Church's support. With many state-imposed restrictions on the Church now lifted, Tomasek saw his chance to implement some of the proposals of the Second Vatican Council. As chairman of the Movement for Conciliar Renewal one of his initiatives was to set up a pastoral council of priests and lay Catholics in an effort to deepen the church's spiritual life.

Following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968, strict state control over the churches was reimposed. In the years that followed, Bishop Tomasek displayed a talent for quiet diplomacy, avoiding confrontation with the regime without personal compromise. He was the only Czech bishop to refuse to join Paces in Terezin, the government-sponsored association of Catholic clergy, when it was founded in 1971.

Tomasek's cautious approach to church-state relations as well as his pastoral and educational work won the respect of Pope Paul VI. In May 1976 he raised Tomasek, at that time an apostolic administrator with limited church authority, to the rank of cardinal—a highly unusual, if not unprecedented, move. The nomination was made in pectore because of difficulties with the Prague government and was not announced until the following

year. Only in 1978 did Cardinal Tomasek become Archbishop of Prague and simultaneously Czech Primate.

As cardinal, Tomasek had to contend with criticism from within his own church for failing to stand up for peaceful beliefs. From the late 1970s there was a perceptible change in Tomasek's attitude and he began to speak out on matters affecting the Church and society in Czechoslovakia. This change coincided with the election of Karel Wojtyla as Pope in 1978, a fellow Slav and personal friend. Tomasek called this one of the most important events in his life.

Conscious of the importance of the laity in a church crippled by its shortage of clergy, Tomasek lent his support to numerous lay Catholic initiatives. In January 1988 he gave his backing to a major Catholic petition for religious rights and urged Catholics to sign it. Six hundred thousand showed their unity with the Cardinal by signing the document. The same year he launched a 10-year programme of spiritual renewal in preparation for the third millennium. The programme aimed to encourage Catholics and non-Catholics to take responsibility for the spiritual and moral state of the nation.

Cardinal Tomasek was the author of numerous letters to the communist government defending the rights of believers and calling for church-state dialogue. In one of the most significant, written in 1987, he called for the separation of church and state in Czechoslovakia. It was the first time such a demand had been publicly expressed by a Church leader.

But the Primate's interventions with the regime were not limited to church matters. He was to become an outspoken defender of human rights and on several occasions in 1989, notably January and November, protested at police brutality during peaceful anti-government demonstrations.

In November 1989 a momentous event in the history of the Czechoslovak Catholic church heralded dramatic political changes. The Blessed Agnes of Bohemia was finally canonised in Rome. Morale in the church reached a new high, but there was dismay that the service could not be held in Prague. A week later the demonstrations began which were to topple the communist government. Tomasek gave his immediate and total backing to the liberalisation process in an address to one of the first public rallies.

Within six months of the "Velvet Revolution" the situation of the Catholic church in Czechoslovakia had improved significantly for the Cardinal to be able to welcome Pope John Paul II in Prague for the first time. Aged 90, Tomasek had waited a long time for this moment.

On March 27, 1991, the Pope finally agreed to Tomasek's replacement as Archbishop of Prague. He was almost 92, his health was failing and he confessed relief at the Pope's decision — "a great weight has been lifted from my shoulders". Of his successor, Miroslav Vlk, Tomasek said he was "a man of great faith and hope who overcame all the trials of difficult times". The same could be said of Tomasek.

## WANG HONGWEN

Wang Hongwen, one of the "Gang of Four" who terrorised China during the years of the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, died of a liver complaint in hospital in Peking on August 3 aged 58.

IN 1966 Wang Hongwen was still languishing in obscurity as a security guard at no. 17 cotton mill in Shanghai. Within six years he was virtual head of the "Shanghai Mafia", political commissar of its garrison and boss of its trade union federation. Only a year later, as vice-chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, he was presenting a revised constitution to the party congress in Peking, and was widely regarded as the man most likely to succeed chairman Mao when he died.

This progress seemed to argue great qualities of political leadership, and in the confusion of the times there were always leaders to be found to sing the new owner's praises. The truth was that Wang was mainly a product of skilful public relations. He had made a reputation by campaigning against "capitalist roaders" at the outset of the Cultural Revolution and it became convenient to the other, older, members of the Gang of Four to have such a young man among them, someone able to rally the young around the ageing chairman. In fact Mao never really trusted Wang — and with good reason. Wang had plotted against Chou En-lai and Mao was aware that his wife, Jiang Qing, and the other members of the Gang of Four tended to use the young man as a conduit for their own views and prejudices.

Wang is thought to have been born into a peasant family in Jilin province. He started work at a Shanghai cotton mill in 1958. The start of the Cultural Revolution provided him with an opportunity to make an impression. With a number of other workers at the mill he organised a poster campaign attacking the "capitalist roaders" who managed the plant. The Shanghai party organisation at first declared the campaign counter-revolutionary, but Wang and his comrades journeyed to Peking to seek absolution from chairman Mao himself. Mao was persuaded, probably by Jiang Qing, that there was a generation gap to be bridged between the forces unleashed by the Cultural Revolution and the ageing figures surrounding himself and accepted Wang as a plausible figurehead for the younger elements. He was tall and good looking and had a certain slick articulacy. When he returned to Shanghai it was in a very different light from that in which he had left the city.

Even his antecedents and early life began to take on a mythological quality. His father was deemed a hero who

shouted as a nationalist firing squad shot him: "Long live the Chinese Communist Party." As for Wang, he was discovered to be an "all round" communist, not merely a worker, but a farmer and also, possibly, a soldier as well.

The year 1973 was his apogee and saw him behind only Mao and Chou En-lai in the party hierarchy. By the following year he was already overstepping the mark. He annoyed Hua Guofeng by meddling in the organisation of the militia in Hua's province of Hunan. The fact was that Wang thought that he ought to have a military command, a piece of presumption which brought howls of protest from the generals and stubborn opposition from Chou En-lai. Nothing daunted, Wang next went to Mao to hint that Chou was plotting against him. Mao, who by now had considerable misgivings about the activities of the Gang of Four, declined to believe such patent untruths about his prime minister. Indeed, when soon afterwards Jiang Qing suggested that Mao invest Wang with even greater powers, the chairman demurred.

Nevertheless, when Chou died in 1976 Wang carried out his duties in a caretaker capacity. Retribution was not, however, long in coming. When Mao himself died not long afterwards Wang's enemies closed in. Deng Xiaoping and others among the older men who the Gang of Four's youth cult had given such a bad time launched a political counter-offensive. The main accusation against Wang was that he had tried to organise the Shanghai People's Militia into a fighting force to defy the regular army



long enough in the wake of Mao's death to help the leftist group tighten its hold on China.

Tried with the rest of the gang at a televised hearing in 1981, Wang was sentenced to life imprisonment. Unlike Jiang Qing, who remained defiant in the face of her accusers, Wang seemed to accept his sentence meekly, promising to work hard in prison, and to mend his ways. He first entered hospital in 1986 for treatment for his liver complaint.

## SIR DENNING PEARSON

Sir (James) Denning Pearson, former chairman of Rolls-Royce, died on August 1 aged 83. He was born on August 8, 1908.

DENNING Pearson will be best remembered as the man at the helm of Rolls-Royce when it collapsed in February 1971. The reason for the collapse was the huge additional sums required to develop the RB-211 aero engine, which eventually proved beyond the company's ability to finance. Whilst the uncompromising stance of the RB-211's main customer, Lockheed, made the problem more acute, the crisis became a classic confrontation between the engineers and the accountants. In the end Pearson and his senior colleagues were determined to produce the best engine at almost any cost.

The collapse was an early test of the industrial policy of the Heath government. Rolls-Royce was allowed to fall into liquidation, while the aero engine division was nationalised. The motor car division was floated on the Stock Exchange in its own right before eventually being taken over by Vickers.

Pearson was born in Bootle, Lancashire, the son of an engineer of modest means who died when Pearson was only 12. The boy and his mother moved to Cardiff, where he attended Canton Secondary School. From there he became an apprentice with C. H. Bailey, Graham, the local ship repairer. Whilst at Bailey's he

went part-time to Cardiff Technical College, gaining a first-class honours degree in engineering from London University. After a year's post-graduate work, he gained the only Senior Whitehead Scholarship awarded in Britain that year, which he took on turbine research at Metropolitan Vickers.

He joined Rolls-Royce in 1932. It is a measure of the standards of engineering prevailing there that even a man of his academic achievements was not rated in the first rank at the company. He spent his early years in the aero engine department, which was to play such a decisive part in the culminating phase of his career.

He took charge of the technical department when Rolls-Royce set up a shadow factory in Glasgow for the wartime production of Merlin engines. He became chief technical production engineer, making frequent visits to the United States.

After the war Pearson was transferred to Canada to open a technical office for the sale of Merlin engines for a Canadian-built version of the Douglas DC-4 airliner being bought by Trans-Canada Air Lines and the Royal Canadian Air Force. This involved formidable technical challenges, because Rolls-Royce had not previously made engines for civil aviation. But the experience gained was to prove valuable in the many later civil contracts won by the company. When he returned to Eng-



land in 1946 Pearson was made general manager of sales and service for the aero engine division, where he concentrated on expanding the civil aviation business.

In 1949 he became a director of the division and managing director five years later; he travelled extensively, selling the company's engines to 100 airlines and a similar number of other civil operators in 59 different countries.

In 1957, whilst remaining head of the aero engine division, he was made chief executive of the whole

group. He gave up the dual role in 1965, but remained chief executive for another three years until he succeeded Lord Kintore as chairman. He was knighted in 1963. Although his colleagues knew him as Jim or PSN (short for Pearson), Denning was his family name, and that was what he adopted as his official title thereafter.

A highly intelligent, widely read man with firm views on organisation, he developed a very strong personality, declaring in a BBC interview that the secret of industrial success was the pursuit of excellence, from which success would inevitably follow.

This philosophy met its ultimate challenge in the RB-211 issue, in which Pearson felt badly let down by the government. It was believed in some quarters that the government allowed Rolls-Royce to collapse so that it could replace Pearson and his team with a management of its own choosing. However, it is clear that he was unable to persuade banks and other financial sources to provide additional support.

Although the main part of Pearson's career effectively ended at that point, he became chairman of Gamma Associates, a consultancy firm, in 1972 and remained so until 1980.

He was president of the Society of British Aerospace Companies in 1963 and the following year was elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He re-

ceived honorary degrees from the universities of Brunswick, Wales, Nottingham and Loughborough, and was a fellow of the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

His major interests outside engineering were education. He was a member of the Universities/Industry Joint Committee of the Confederation of British Industry. He was a governor of the London Graduate School of Business Studies and a member of the council of Manchester Business School.

Pearson also maintained close links with Rolls-Royce: his principal home until his death was near the Derby works. He also took an active interest in the local community. He was a magistrate, chairman of the Derby Royal School for the Deaf, a member of the board of Derby College of Further Education and governor of several local schools.

Pearson's main hobby was sailing. His family had a cottage in north Wales, where they used to take summer holidays. He shared the ownership of a Dragon sailing dinghy, and was a keen sea fisherman.

Although work frequently took him away, when he relaxed he was able to switch off from his business concerns.

Pearson met his wife, Eluned, at Metropolitan Vickers and they married in 1932. She died earlier this year. He is survived by his two daughters.

## August 5 ON THIS DAY 1815

Whatever verdict history may have passed on Napoleon, there is no doubting the vehemence of feeling against him in this country after Waterloo. Descriptions of him such as "the unspeakable usurper" are to be found readily in the columns of newspapers at the time.

## A DUNGEON FOR NAPOLEON.

To The Editor of The Times

Sir—An article in your paper of yesterday, which I have this morning perused in the country, has so forcibly struck me with apprehensions of the consequences to be expected from sending Buonaparte to St. Helena, that I must once more beg to call your attention to that subject.

The writer, who states that his opinions are formed from a residence of some time upon the island, gives very satisfactory reasons for thinking it an unsafe spot for the confinement of a state prisoner. If we are afraid to put to himself a monster to death — for nothing but fear can deter us from an act of such obvious justice — at least it is due to the millions of widows and orphans, whom he has deprived of their natural protectors: at least it is due to the blood of the just men he has murdered: at least it is due to the future safety of us who survive, that his re-appearance to insult and scourge the world should be prevented.

I say, then, that this atrocious murderer should be loaded with irons, and shut up for ever in a dungeon from the light of the sun, and from the sight of every one, but a preacher of the gospel, to be employed in the difficult work of stirring up repentance in his blood-guilty soul. With God nothing is impossible; and if such a miracle of mercy were to be wrought as to open the eyes of this wretch to his crimes, and

enable him to bear their contemplation without madness, the world might, perhaps, be still more edified by his confessions of guilt, than even by his crimes, and solemn by his punishment. The hope of such an event is indeed slender; nothing but years of solitude and seclusion can be expected to bring it out.

It is intimated that he is to be treated as a General, and, consequently, is to be allowed a certain parole when he reaches St. Helena. Good God! A parole to this man who has perjured his parole, treaty, oath, every thing that is sacred, every thing that can bind man to man! If we had razed Le-felvie, Desnouettes, or any other of the numerous scoundrels who broke their parole in this country, I apprehend no man of common sense would have contended that they would have been again entitled to their parole. In former and better times, an English Admiral who sailed to the West Indies, carried a halberd at his mainmast head to hang the Count d'Estaing, who had violated his parole, and in violation of the law of the strictness of the law the admiral was justified. Buonaparte patronises these infamous breaches of faith in others, and sets them an illustrious example. He binds himself by treaty to remain at Elba; and he comes to France, proclaiming that his promise was a mere artifice on his part, and that he never intended to keep it.

In the name of humanity, therefore, to avert dangers, from which the soul recoils with dread, if not to punish crimes which it contemplates with horror — let this man be committed to such secure keeping, that the world may know and be assured that it is physically impossible he should survive, for any other purpose than repentance. If he is not to be exhibited, like Bajazet, in an iron cage, let him be for ever immured in the silence and secrecy of a dungeon.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
PROBUS

## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Wrottesley, 2nd Baron Wrottesley, astronomer, Stafford, 1798; Alexander Kinglake, historian, Taunton, 1809; Edward John Eyre, explorer and governor of Jamaica, Hornsea, Yorkshire, 1815; Guy de Maupassant, short story writer, Miromesnil, France, 1850; Harold Holt, prime minister of Australia 1966-67, Sydney, 1908.

DEATHS: Thomas Newcomen, inventor of the atmospheric steam engine,

London, 1729; James Gibbs, architect, London, 1754; Frederick North, 2nd Earl of Guildford, prime minister, 1770-82; London, 1792; Richard Howe, Earl Howe, admiral, 1799; Friedrich Engels, co-author of the Communist Manifesto (1848), London, 1895; Phil May, caricaturist, London, 1903; Arthur Meighen, prime minister of Canada 1920-21, 1926, Toronto, 1960; Marilyn Monroe, Los Angeles, 1962.

Mr Ronald Edward K... Newwood, of Womersley Park, Guildford, Surrey, who died intestate, left estate valued at £584,422 net.

Li Commander Peter Kemp, of Maldon, Essex, author and naval historian, former head of the Naval Historical Branch and Naval Librarian at the Ministry of Defence, left estate valued at £222,297 net.

Mr Gerald Paton Rivers Esq., of London NW11, left estate valued at £5,395,649 net.

Violent Ailsa Parnell Jones, of Westgate, Chichester, West Sussex, left estate valued at £728,694 net.

the late baroness of Offchurch, and the residue equally between the National Trust and the Save the Children Fund.

Christine Robinson, of Taunton, Somerset, left estate valued at £16,391 net.

She left £41,500 and others in personal legacies, £100 each to the Red Cross Handicapped Club, Taunton, and the Women's Institute, Taunton and St Stephen's Church, and half the residue to the Salvation Army, and 1/10th of the residue each to the British Red Cross Society, for work in Taunton, the Order of St John, the work in Taunton, and the local.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid)

## Latest wills

Mr Alan Bennett Blawie, of Chelworth, Malpasbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £1,077,144.

Mrs Brenda Claire Brotherton, of Greenway, Cambria, £1,283,470.

May Beryl Evans, of St Leonard's-on-Sea, East Sussex £98,250.

Mr Patrick Mitchell Evans, of Spanton on Arrow, Herefordshire, £551,447.

Mrs Eileen Graham Foot, of Sledesham, West Sussex £647,519.

Mr Zillah Fennell, of Burslem, Staffs, £530,487.

Mrs Lydia Marian Myrnes, of Sheerness, Kent, £734,332.

## Church news

Church of Scotland

Induction

The Rev Alan Greig to Kinross

Ordination and induction

The Rev John Knox to Macanish, Lochgelly

Auxiliary ministers ordained

The Rev Marion Howie to Ardrossan Park

Retirements

The Rev Alexander Bay to St Nicholas Cathedral, Glasgow

The Rev R.A. Montgomery from Quarners Village, Mount Zion

The Rev Alan Taylor from Brydekirk with Hoddam

The Rev James Thomson from West Kirk, Dumbarton

JP 11/20/150





Family gathering: the Queen Mother with Princess Margaret, Lord Linley, the Queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, the Princess of Wales and Prince Harry

## Mortar attack on Sarajevo funeral horrifies West

Continued from page 1

The men with mortars were often moving swiftly through villages and strikes would kill many people not involved in the fighting.

An American official yesterday said that he could not yet confirm earlier claims that the Serbs were operating concentration camps in Bosnia. The change of position led to heated exchanges in Congress and the State Department denied that it had lied about the issue.

"We have not been able to have independent confirmation of these reports, but we are certainly following up vigorously with the Serbian authorities," Thomas Niles, the assistant secretary of state, told the House of Representatives foreign affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

On Monday Richard Boucher, the State Department spokesman, had appeared to confirm media reports of detention centres in which civilians have been tortured and murdered. "We do know from our own reports, information similar to the press

reports, that Serbian forces are maintaining what they call detention centres for Croats and Muslims. There have been abuses, torturing and killings taking place in those areas," he said.

Mr Niles said yesterday that there had been "a misreading" of Mr Boucher's statement. America had been in touch with its embassy in Belgrade and it could not confirm that any killings had taken place in detention camps. Washington was urging the Serbian authorities to let the International Red Cross inspect the camps. Mr Niles also said America was working with its allies on an United Nations resolution that would authorise military force to make sure relief supplies flow through the former Yugoslavia.

In Bonn Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, dismissed calls for Germany and other Western countries to supply arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. He said this would violate a UN embargo and run counter to the goal of achieving a political settlement.

He said such calls appeared reasonable at first in view of the horrors reported from the war zone. However, Germany and all other UN members were bound by a security council embargo on supplying weapons to any successor state of the former Yugoslavia.

Heavy fighting broke out yesterday in the Croat-held suburb of Stup, close to the headquarters of UN peace-keeping forces. And Sarajevo residents began filling bathtubs with water after reports that Serbs planned to cut off the city's water supply. Authorities said 18 had been killed and 116 injured in fighting in the city since the weekend, with 32 killed and 261 wounded in Muslim or Croat-held parts of Bosnia.

Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, yesterday welcomed the arrest of 70 Serb irregulars in Bosnia as "a first but concrete step to contain the conflict" in the former Yugoslav republic.

Daily visitation, page 9  
Daniel Johnson and  
Diary, page 10

## Hospital infection kills two

Continued from page 1

Symptoms. Admissions of children requiring intensive care have been suspended until a clean-up operation has eliminated bacteria from the hospital. All the affected children are under seven and have been moved into isolation where they are being treated with antibiotics.

Both babies who died were heart disease patients whose weakened immune system meant the *klebsiella* provoked fatal septicemia, one of the many conditions the bacterium may cause.

Doctors at Guy's yesterday defended their actions. Donal O'Sullivan, consultant in communicable disease control, said that it had been hard to track down the source of the infection. "Identifying the most common factor was difficult. In the end it was that they had been cared for in the intensive care ward at one point in their treatment. As soon as we found this out, we closed the ward."

Larking infection, page 2

## Gifts and guns mark the royal birthday

By LIN JENKINS

QUEEN Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 92nd birthday yesterday with characteristic poise, humour and accessibility.

Well-wishers, some of whom had waited all night, roared with delight when the Queen Mother, dressed in a flowing outfit of turquoise and gold, emerged through the gates of Clarence House. A policeman, who had earlier led the impromptu choruses of *Happy Birthday* and *For She's a Jolly Good Fellow*, gave way to Colin Edwards, sporting a Union Jack shirt and cap, who conducted the crowd with gusto, despite his sleepless night on the pavement.

As the Queen Mother mingled with the crowd, she accepted gifts of gin, from an American woman living in south London, birthday cake, posies, Norfolk lavender and home-made cards from scores of children. Julia McCarthy-Fox, who had camped out in a makeshift tent of a chair and blanket, said: "I have seen the Queen Mother

at least 15 times. I think she looked very well today. She is obviously enjoying herself."

More officially, the birthday was marked by a 41-gun salute at Hyde Park and another of 62 at the Tower of London. Protocol dictates such formalities with the 62 guns being fired at the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company on the anniversary of the birth, accession and coronation of the Sovereign and on the birthday of the Queen Mother and Duke of Edinburgh.

Buckingham Palace said it was usual for a salute to be fired from Hyde Park an hour earlier, at noon. The normal salute from the park is 21 rounds, but since the occasion was a royal one, an extra 20 were fired.

After the public celebration, the Queen Mother celebrated privately with the Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Harry, Princess Margaret, the Duke of York, Lord Linley and his sister Lady Sarah Armstrong Jones.

Diary, page 10

## Olympic sketch

## Who said cheats never prosper?

The most grandiose self-delusion in sport — and competition for this accolade is pretty intense — is that sport is an oasis of fairness in a global desert of wickedness. It is nothing of the kind.

People are surprised and shocked when people cheat in sport, particularly when it happens on the highest of moral high ground, the summit of Mount Olympus. Why? It happens every time. Of course it does. At the first Olympic Games in 1896, Spiridon Belokas, covered part of the marathon by horse and carriage. He was later found out and stripped of his bronze.

The latest Olympian uproar concerns the Moroccan, Khalid Skah, winner of the 10,000 metres on Monday night, disqualified for receiving copious assistance from his lapped teammate, Hammou Boutayeb, and then dramatically reinstated yesterday.

Skah won in a storm of booing, and ran his lap of, er, honour in a hail of paper cups. In the end, it seems, the conclusion was that his win was dodgy, but not all that dodgy. The Kenyans, who lost a gold medal to Richard Chelimo by the decision, are distraught.

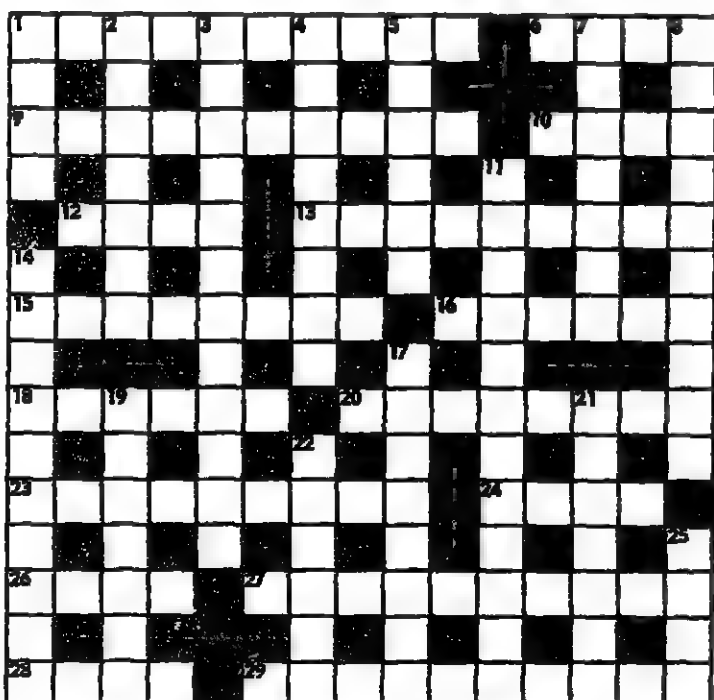
Where does the fair play lie in all this? It was not edifying, none of it, but it was certainly riveting stuff. The point of it all is that sport is not a moral example but a moral drama.

There is a high dramatic quality to cheating, and cheating has always been part of sport. What is more, the sense of moral outrage — that simple gut reaction of "that's not fair" — has always been part of a spectator's pleasure. If you seek proof, look no further than the glorious anger of the crowd as they responded to Skah's victory. It took us straight back to bullfighting, and the howls of derision that greet the matador who shows fear, or to ancient Rome and the thumbs-down to the fallen gladiator. Such moments have always been part of sport's heartland.

Sport puts simple — not so much elementary as elemental — issues into sharp focus. Because of this, sport was used as a political morality play for years: the virtues of the good communist who defeats the decadent West. China still plays the same game: they are reap-

SIMON BARNES

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,989



- ACROSS**
- Simple artist's note in front of a catalogue (10).
  - Voiced support for examination (4).
  - Deeply involved with team, is unable to drink (10).
  - Fit for Centre Court? Just the opposite (4).
  - Declared second-hand (4).
  - Coming back from fight, a poet sought healer (9).
  - It's hard, with a lion around, to avail oneself of this watering-hole (8).
  - Sportsman fishes river (6).
  - Attempt to collect one pound in a hat (6).
  - Boy in uniform, note, for service (8).
  - Lizard difficult to see from helm — ocean is rough (9).
  - This piper should have been, as cockney might say (4).
  - Composer's not hardhearted — his compositions are amusing (4).
- DOWN**
- Again orders change, nonetheless, to do this? (10).
  - Regretted forgetting from Di-  
eppo, on the way from France (4).
  - Pride without prejudice in this novel (6,4).
  - From what we hear, compelled to be a domestic (4).
  - One has no reason to take action in support of staff's union (7).
  - Bold use may be made of this sporting event (5,7).
  - On other side in the French game (8).
  - Get fed up about half measure in governing body (6).
  - In demand? That's not true (7).
  - Not crazy about silver? It's very fashionable (3,3,4).
  - Group set up to investigate Labour? (7,5).
  - Page about joins going into detail (10).
  - Sang with evil manipulation, as 18 did with this man's (8).
  - Christian's statement of his rank in Muslim country (7).
  - A canoe I built for this island group (7).
  - Overturning a republic, became monarch (6).
  - River or brook (4).

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 41 per cent of the competitors at the 1992 Bristol regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championship

**Concise Crossword, page 9**  
Life & Times section

## WORDWATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- TARANTULOUS**
- Like a large hairy spider
  - A case for decanters
  - Frustated
- PAROUSIE**
- A Salena, sty, antiseptic
  - An Egyptian
  - A sweet saffron
- BRACHYCEPHALIC**
- Short or broad-headed
  - Long-armed
  - Brachish tidal water
- SORTILEGE**
- Blasphemy
  - Multi-coloured hose
  - Public opinion polls

Answers on page 12

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

**LONDON & SE**

C. London (with N & S Cares)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
A25 London Orbital only	736

**National motorways**

West Country	737
Wales	738
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp. max 6pm to 6pm, 22C (72F); min 6pm to 6pm, 12C (54F). Rain: 20hr to 6pm, 0.2in. Sun. 24hr to 6pm, 5.7hr.

**HIGHEST & LOWEST**

Monday: Highest day temp: Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, 25C (77F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall: Exidean, Dumfries and Galloway, 1.56in; highest sunshine: Buxton, Derbyshire, 10.8hr

## MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp. max 6am to 6pm, 19C (66F); min 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.13in. Sun. 24hr to 6pm, 2.8hr.

## WEATHER

It will be cloudy today in most areas, with outbreaks of rain spreading slowly south across northern parts of England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny intervals and showers or longer periods of rain. Brief sunny spells may occur in the southeast. Outlook: cloud and sporadic light rain may not clear the southeast. The Midlands and Wales should be dry and bright. Further north, showers will become frequent and heavy.

## REGIONAL

MDQVY: 1=cloudy, 2=drizzle, 3=fog, 4=sun, 5=clear, 6=showers, 7=rain, 8=thunder, 9=ice, 10=snow	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Pressure	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min	Notes
Aberdeen	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Ammanford	10	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Belfast	10	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Birmingham	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Bognor Regis	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Bournemouth	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Bristol	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Cardiff	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Colwyn Bay	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Doncaster	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Douglas	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Edinburgh	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Exeter	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Exmouth	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Gloucester	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Guernsey	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Hastings	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Jersey	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Kingston	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Lewes	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Liverpool	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
London	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Manchester	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Newcastle	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Nottingham	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Perth	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Plymouth	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Portsmouth	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Reading	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Sheffield	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Southampton	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Stirling	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Swansea	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Torquay	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Walsby	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Warrington	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Wexham	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Widnes	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Worcester	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Wrexham	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Yarmouth	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

## TOURIST ENTER

Country	Temp	Wind	Humidity	Pressure	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min	Notes
Australia	25	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Belgium	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Canada	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
France	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Germany	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Italy	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Japan	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Netherlands	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Norway	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Spain	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Sweden	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Switzerland	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Turkey	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
USA	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun
Yugoslavia	12	10	75	1015	10	0.0	15	5	sun

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclay Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

## WEATHER

It will be cloudy today in most areas, with outbreaks of rain spreading slowly south across northern parts of England and Wales. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny intervals and showers or longer periods of rain. Brief sunny spells may occur in the southeast. Outlook: cloud and sporadic light rain may not clear the southeast. The Midlands and Wales should be dry and bright. Further north, showers will become frequent and heavy.

## REGIONAL

	Sun	Rain	Ch	Max	Min
Aberdeen	0.1	0.0	17	19	sun
Ammanford	0.1	0.0	18	20	sun
Belfast	0.3	0.4	17	19	sun
Birmingham	0.2	0.0	18	20	sun
Bognor Regis	7.8	-	20	20	sun
Bournemouth	9.5	0.0	21	21	sun
Bristol	8.3	0.1	18	20	sun
Cardiff	6.9	0.1	18	20	sun
Colwyn Bay	7.8	0.0	20	20	sun
Doncaster	0.3	0.2	18	18	sun
Douglas	0.3	0.2	18	18	sun
Edinburgh	7.4	-	18	18	sun
Exeter	0.9	0.34	18	18	sun
Exmouth	2.7	1.58	14	17	sun
Gloucester	7.8	0.0	18	18	sun
Guernsey	8.4	0.0	19	19	sun
Hastings	7.7	0.1	20	20	sun
Jersey	7.7	0.0	20	20	sun
Kingston	2.7	0.4	17	18	sun
Lewes	5.0	0.16	15	19	sun
Liverpool	8.5	0.0	18	18	sun
London	8.5	0.0	18	18	sun
Manchester	0.1	0.30	18	18	sun
Newcastle	6.2	0.15	18	18	sun
Nottingham	0.6	0.07	18	18	sun
Perth	8.5	0.14	18	18	sun
Plymouth	10.1	0.0	20	20	sun
Portsmouth	10.1	0.0	20	20	sun
Reading	0.6	0.04	18	18	sun
Sheffield	0.6	0.04	18	18	sun
Stornoway	0.3	0.78	14	17	sun
Torquay	8.8	0.0	18	18	sun
Treignarth	8.8	0.04	17	17	sun
Torrey	9.1	0.05	18	18	sun
Walsby	2.1	1.54	15	19	sun

These are Monday's forecasts

Greater London	70
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## BUSINESS TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1992

SPORT  
22-26

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

TODAY IN  
BUSINESS

## CREDIBILITY



Credit rating agencies, including Standard & Poor's, are in the limelight as more organisations vie for a high rating  
Page 19

## POLL POSITION

Talkshow Mori's \$13 billion fortune saw him named the world's richest man in a poll by Forbes magazine  
Page 20

## WAR PAINT



Interim profits at Kalon, the paint maker, rose 55 per cent as the Mander bid battle heated its climax  
Page 17, 18

## REACTING

Yorkshire Chemicals is raising its interim dividend from 2.375p to 2.5p a share despite lower first-half pre-tax profits of £5.16 million  
Tempos, page 18

## SLIDING



TI Group reports a 7 per cent slide in first-half profit with no signs of sustainable recovery  
Pages 16, 18

## THE POUND

US dollar  
1.9230 (-0.0035)  
German mark  
2.8349 (-0.0115)  
Exchange index  
92.1 (-0.3)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share  
1804.0 (-10.8)  
FT-SE 100  
2407.5 (-12.7)  
New York Dow Jones  
3380.00 (-15.40)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave  
15692.99 (-16.86)

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10%  
3-month Interbank 10% 10%  
3-month eligible bills 9% 9%  
US: Prime Rate 6%  
Federal Funds 3% 3%  
3-month Treasury Bills 3.17-3.18%  
30-year bonds 10% 10%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.9225  
DM £2.8349  
Sfr £2.5000  
FFr £16.6667  
Yen £160.3609  
ECU £1.9363  
SDR £1.9363  
London Forex market close

## GOLD

London: 352.75 PM \$352.70  
Close \$352.50-352.90  
180.40-180.90  
New York: 352.05-352.55

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$19.90/bbl (\$20.15)

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 129.3 June (1987=100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Lenders urge £60,000 mortgage tax relief

## Pressure grows for boost to housing market

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

TWO more leading mortgage lenders called for government help for the housing market yesterday, adding to the previous day's call from Abbey National.

The Woolwich, the third-largest building society, and National Westminster Bank both want the mortgage tax relief ceiling doubled to £60,000. Their proposals came as the Treasury analysed Abbey National's tax credit scheme. This would pay up to £10,000 as compensation to people who had lost money in the property crash.

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive at the Woolwich, wants the limit for mortgage tax relief to be raised to £60,000 for new buyers for a 12-month period. These new buyers would keep the higher tax relief for five years, in his proposal.

The threshold for stamp duty should also be doubled to £60,000, he said. In December, the government lifted the threshold temporarily to £250,000, but it goes back to £50,000 for property purchases on August 19.

The Woolwich estimates that it would cost £1 billion if 1.3 million started buying during the year. If such a scheme was restricted to first-time buyers, it would cost £500 million. The doubling of the stamp duty threshold would cost £840 million a year. The average new mortgage is currently £60,000.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of NatWest, the largest lender among the high street banks, said that during

informal discussions with the Treasury he had suggested there might be scope to double the ceiling for mortgage tax relief, while at the same time planning to phase out such relief altogether.

Mortgage tax relief is costing £6.1 billion a year. It has been limited to loans up to £30,000 since 1983. Last year, higher rate mortgage tax relief was abolished.

Last December, the Council of Mortgage Lenders, led by Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, suggested a temporary doubling of the mortgage tax relief limit. It was rejected in favour of the stamp duty holiday.

Mr Kirkham said that he fully supported the government's commitment to the ERM as a basis for reducing inflation, but it must recognise that inflation was not the problem in the housing market but deflation was. "Prices are spiralling down and public confidence is going the same

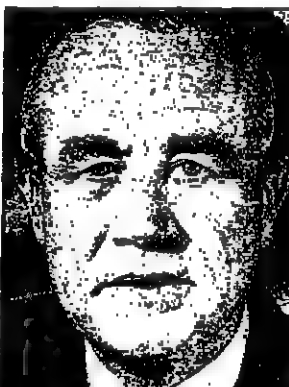
way. Most households feel, and indeed are, less wealthy by the month and consequently they are determined to save more, and spend less. Less spending means less employment. More unemployment means more government expenditure on social benefits."

The Abbey National proposal was to give income tax refunds to home owners who sold at a loss and bought again. It would cost at least £1 billion a year as it was designed to help any of the three million home owners whose properties are worth less than they paid for them, who wanted to move.

Hopes, however, that the housing market will lead the economy out of recession suffered a setback with government figures showing a continued decline in housing starts and completions.

Provisional estimates for June showed that 14,300 dwellings were started. The figure is marginally up on the 14,000 starts in June 1991 but the 42,500 starts in the three months to June were 2 per cent down on the corresponding period last year.

Completions in the month fell to 15,000 from 15,200 and over the latest three-month period were down 10 per cent on a year earlier at 39,300. The fall in new starts has accelerated. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the latest three-month figure was 8 per cent down on the January-March quarter. Private starts were down 6 per cent.



Kirkham: call for help

Comment, page 19

## NatWest doubles profit despite drain of bad debts

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL Westminster Bank more than doubled pre-tax profits to £211 million in the first half of the year after its American subsidiary returned to the black.

This, combined with cost-cutting, pushed the bank to a record operating profit of £1.09 billion and helped combat the flood of bad debts in Britain. Overall, the group's bad debts fell only £38 million to £864 million. The recovery allowed the bank to maintain its interim dividend at 6.125p.

Despite this, Richard Goetz, the new finance director, said that NatWest now has a £4.4 billion portfolio of non-performing loans which is all more than 90 days in arrears. The bank is closely watching loans worth another £2.3 billion, which it believes are doubtful. The cost of funding the non-performing loans cut the bank's profits by £290 million in the half year.

Lord Alexander of Weedon, the chairman, said any substantial improvements in bad debt provisions depended on economic recovery and he called on the government to implement a package of tax incentives and public spending to stimulate growth.

Derek Wanless, the new chief executive, said the results were evidence of the reorganisation of the bank. "More

needs to be done and is being done but we are now well positioned to deal with the short-term uncertainties and obtain any benefit from any economic upturn."

The improvement at NatWest Bancorp, which moved from a £172 million loss to a £44 million profit, helped offset the worsening figures from NatWest's core retail business. This dived into a £74 million loss, compared with a £19 million profit last year. The slump was caused by low loan demand and a further rise in bad debt provisions for branch customers, from £555 million to £640 million.

Staff numbers were cut by 3,100 during the half year, mainly through voluntary re-

dundancy, natural wastage and early retirement. Lord Alexander said the bank plans to shed another 2,000 in the second half. The cuts allowed the bank to hold costs steady at £2.1 billion, although it incurred £29 million in exceptional restructuring charges.

NatWest Markets, the bank's new corporate and institutional division, saw profits slide from £232 million to £141 million because of a rise in bad debt provisions. Last time, the division profited from a £38 million release of Third World debt provisions. Mr Wanless said NatWest's equity operations, previously part of County NatWest, were back in profit but not yet making an adequate return. As such the business has met the target set by Lord Alexander two years ago when he gave it two years to turn around.

Sir Geoffrey Littler, chairman of County NatWest, has resigned from the bank. The creation of NatWest Markets and the reorganisation of the business had left him without a role in the group.

Unlike Lloyds and Midland last week, NatWest increased income 3.5 per cent. The main growth came from overseas operations, corporate banking and insurance services.



Lord Alexander: tax call

Comment, page 19

## Royal Bank faces £418m legal battle

BY NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in the Royal Bank of Scotland fell 21p to 153p yesterday when it announced it is facing a £418 million legal battle with the liquidators of Wallace Smith Trust, a former customer.

The announcement could not have come at a worse time because it coincided with Royal's decision to launch a £200 million preference share issue in America to boost its reserves. Royal's shares were also hit by a warning from the bank that debt provisions are still rising and will cut profits this year.

KPMG Peat Marwick, Wallace Smith Trust's liquidator, has also told National Westminster that it is planning to sue it for £71 million plus interest for the alleged misconduct of a Wallace Smith Trust account, although it has not yet sent a writ. The case appears in the notes to NatWest's interim figures, published

yesterday. Peat served a writ on Royal last Friday. It alleges Royal allowed 38 payments worth £418 million to Wallace Smith Trust to be diverted to Wallace Smith Holdings, a related company, between mid-1989 and end-1990.

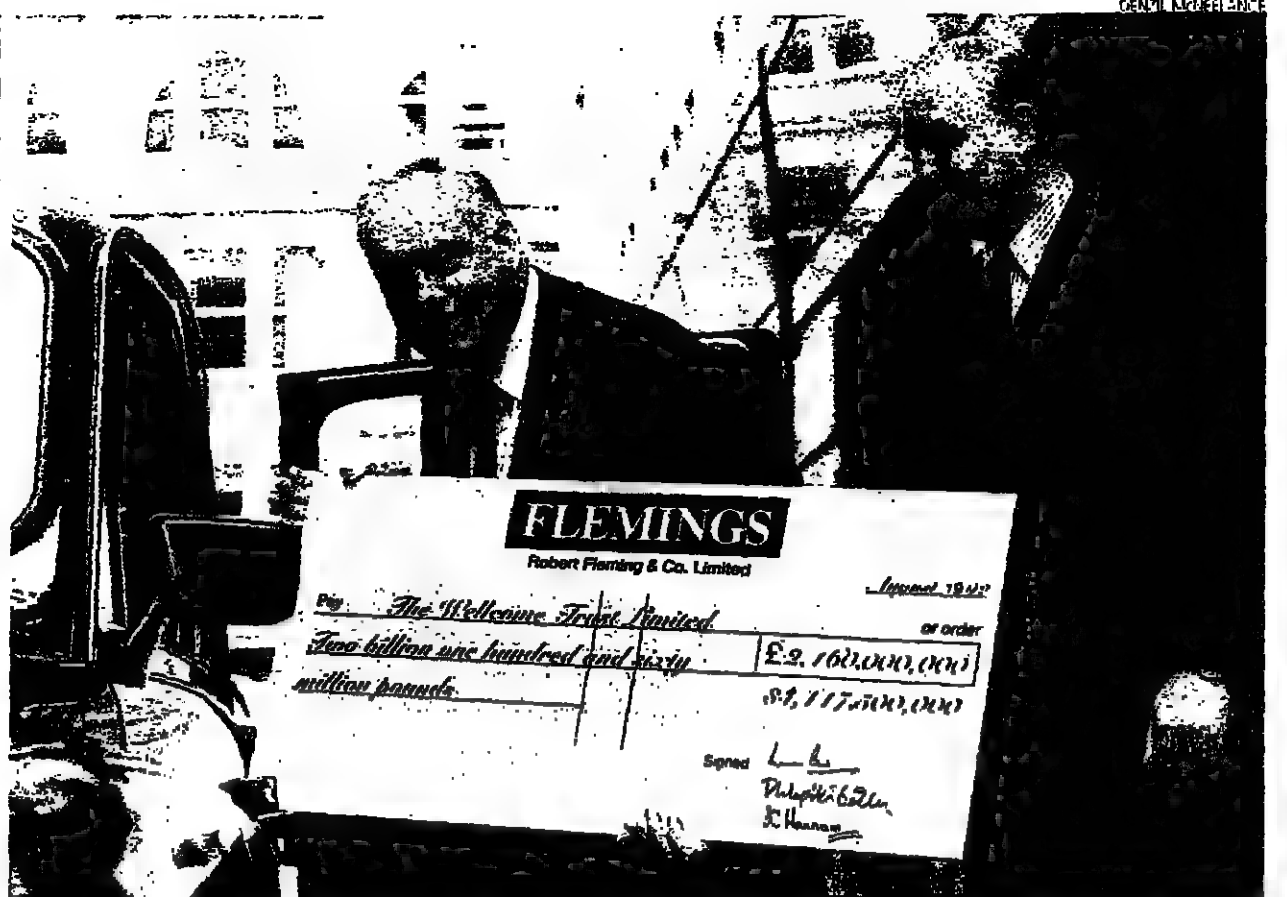
Wallace Smith Trust, a small City bank, was closed and placed in provisional liquidation by the Bank of England in April last year. Duncan Smith, Wallace Smith Trust's chairman, has been charged with 15 offences of theft, fraudulent trading and false accounting and is due to stand trial next February.

Royal Bank said in a statement that it would vigorously contest the claim, but had not made any provision against it since it could not assess its liability. Miller McLean, Royal's legal director, said: "The liquidators are alleging we had no authority to make the payments, which we dispute. We believe that the payments were made with the authority of Wallace Smith Trust." Royal Bank

severed its relationship with the firm a few months before it was closed.

Some funds diverted to Wallace Smith Holdings are thought to have been later routed back to the trust, and Royal has asked Peat how much is still missing. Last year, Peat said Wallace Smith Trust's creditors faced up to £100 million shortfall.

In a separate statement, Royal Bank said its bad debts are still rising, dashing analysts' hopes that they had peaked. "Business conditions will remain difficult for the group for at least the remainder of 1992," it said. Royal Bank suffered provisions of £351 million in the year to September 1991 and £163 million in the half year to last March. Mr McLean said the preference share issue would be used for general corporate purposes. "We cannot see any point in not taking new capital when we have the chance," he said. This is Royal's third issue since 1989.



"To the bank — and fast": Ian Macgregor and Lawrence Banks leaving yesterday with the £2.16 billion cheque

Wellcome  
eschews  
equities  
for bonds

BY MARTIN WALLER

IAN Macgregor, director of finance at Wellcome Trust, takes delivery of a cheque for £2.16 billion raised from this summer's sale of shares in the Wellcome pharmaceutical group. The money will be reinvested and the income used to fund medical research, the charitable trust has said.

Robert Fleming, global co-ordinator to last month's sale, collected the cash from participating institutions around the world and the cheque was handed over at Fleming's London headquarters yesterday by Lawrence Banks, deputy chairman, as share certificates went out to retail investors.

The trust says that as a result of switching out of the low-yielding Wellcome shares, where it retains a 42 per cent holding, into higher-income funds, the total income for the next full financial year will double to £220 million.

The share issue suffered in the malaise on equity markets this month, and the amount raised came in at the bottom end of some earlier forecasts. Not surprisingly the trust remains wary of equities, and the mass of the money raised will not go back into shares.

Roger Gibbs, the trust's chairman, takes the view that at the moment, at a time of low inflation, bonds look more attractive for the next six months at least. As a result, £1.5 billion will be invested in cash and fixed interest investments.

Including the outstanding 42 per cent holding in Wellcome, which has a value of about £2.5 billion, the trust has a total of £5 billion under management, including a £300 million equity portfolio dating from the original 1986 donation of the pharmaceuticals company and a £500 million special fund set up by Barclays de Zoete Wedd, to take shares from institutions wanting to subscribe to this summer's issue.

The trust therefore has about 30 per cent of its investment in cash and bonds, although in the longer term the intention is to reduce this to below 25 per cent.

Less wary of the equity market are six out of the eight executive directors of Wellcome, who have taken up shares in the offer.

## Signs suggest 'recovery' in US has run out of steam

BY RODNEY HOBSON

ANY economic recovery in America has petered out, according to leading indicators that fell in June for the first time this year. They are seen as a reliable guide to future performance.

The index was pushed down by weaker money supply, a shorter working week, higher applications for unemployment benefit, a fall in share prices and depressed consumer confidence. These factors offset higher orders for plant and equipment and a rise in manufacturers' orders for consumer goods.

The fall of 0.2 per cent was in line with economists' forecasts and followed rises of 0.3 per cent in April and 0.6 per cent in May. The figures cast doubt over the latest forecast by the Federal Reserve of real growth in the American economy of about 2½ per cent this year.

To achieve that target, growth in the second half will have to be at an annual rate of 2½ per cent, while economists think the actual outturn will be about half that.

Foreign exchange dealers, who believe that the American authorities are unwilling to see the dollar fall further, were reluctant to sell the currency

ahead of unemployment figures on Friday, although the dollar came off its best levels.

Instead they turned their attention to the continued weakness of the pound at the bottom of the European exchange-rate mechanism. In a continuation of last week's falls, the pound dropped 1 pence to DM2.8350.

Gwyn Hache of James Capel said: "Sterling was particularly affected by all the devaluation talk over the weekend and by the feeling that the economy is in the doldrums."

He said there was also concern at the possibility of a No vote in the French referendum on Maastricht and of a further rise in German interest rates in the autumn.

Figures from the Treasury show that there was modest support for sterling during July. The Bank of England spent about \$86 million from the gold and currency reserves. The figure was only marginally higher than economists expected.

However, the reserves showed an overall rise of \$50 million to \$45.75 billion, taking into account borrowings and repayments. Further pro-

ceeds from the British Telecom privatisation accounted for \$210 million.

The Bundesbank council returns from its summer recess tomorrow against a backdrop of fierce domestic criticism of its latest discount rate rise and worries about even tighter monetary policies.

Markets have been depressed by rumours that the lombard rate — unchanged in its latest tightening in July — could be raised this week, although economists think a move is unlikely so soon, given that the Bundesbank has said its policies should, if possible, not cause problems for foreign partners.

"The speculation about a lombard rate increase is totally unfounded," said Ulrich Beckmann, economist at Deutsche Bank. He believed the rumours were coming from foreign markets. Investors abroad, who had doubted the Bundesbank would tighten as aggressively as it did in July, did not want to burn their fingers a second time.

Even so, German bond market yields have moved up to their highest levels this year on speculation of a lombard rise.

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# Kalon's profit rise backs up its bid for rival paint firm

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

KALON Group, the Yorkshire paint manufacturer, has backed up its £89 million hostile bid for the rival Wolverhampton-based Manders (Holdings), with a 55 per cent increase in its half-yearly pre-tax profits to £6.16 million.

Earnings per share for the six months to end-June are 48 per cent higher than a year ago, at 3.45p, and the interim dividend has been lifted from 0.7p to 1p. Kalon is also forecasting a full-year dividend of 3.2p a share, against 2.2p last time.

The figures come two days after Manders posted its own

interim results showing a 66 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, to £4.06 million, and forecast annual dividends totalling at least 8.4p a share, a rise of 20 per cent.

These results were criticised by Mike Hennessy, Kalon group managing director, who argued that after stripping out special factors, "it is clear that Manders' underlying trading performance has actually got worse".

Roger Akers, Manders' chief executive, hit back yesterday, insisting that, excluding its Wincewick acquisition, Manders' trading divisions

improved profitability in the first half.

Mr Hennessy said Kalon's results provided further evidence of the group's "consistent ability to generate substantial increases in profits and market share".

The dominant decorative paint business, which claims 16 per cent of the UK paint market, lifted its contribution by 41.8 per cent to £6.01 million during the period after sales increases in both the retail and trade market.

Industry figures show that the group's trade paint sales improved by 17 per cent over the six months to the end of May, compared with an 8 per cent decline elsewhere in the industry. Group retail paint sales were up 9 per cent, against a non-Kalon industry advance of 3 per cent.

Kalon says its average factory selling prices were similar to those in the first half of 1991. Mr Hennessy said that, despite claims to the contrary, the group had not conceded any discounts to support customer promotions.

Profits were checked by deepening losses of £136,000 in the chemicals division, where management changes led to disruption, similar losses of £242,000 in the recession-hit industrial coatings business, and an increased deficit of £139,000 at Smyth-Morris in Spain, again under new management.

Mr Hennessy promises action on all these divisions by the year-end, and does not rule out sale or closure if they remain unprofitable.

Kalon generated £7 million of cash during the six months, lifting cash balances to £8 million. Kalon, which has until Sunday to adjust its terms should it wish to, yesterday claimed acceptance from holders of about 6.5 per cent of Manders' shares. Mr Akers claimed that the bulk of this was accounted for by "one relatively new institutional shareholder", which owns 5.93 per cent. "Acceptances from other shareholders represented only 0.57 per cent."



Crime-buster Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman and chief executive of Kingfisher, the B&Q to Woolworth retailing group, helps to start Crime Concern's Crucial Crew safety programme with Vanessa Richardson, 11. Crucial Crew, organised by the City of London Police and sponsored by Kingfisher, aims to help children lead safer lives by confronting them with simulated situations involving danger or crime

## Taubman sells to reduce his debts

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

ALFRED Taubman, the Sotheby's chairman who raised more than \$100 million two months ago to bolster his depleted personal fortune, is bringing his shopping centre property company to market in a deal that will relieve him of more than \$400 million of debt.

Mr Taubman, 67, who pioneered the artistically designed American covered shopping precinct, is selling investors 26.8 million shares in Taubman Centres Inc at a price between \$12.50 and \$14.50, valuing the 19 malls at between 52 and 60 times last year's earnings.

As a result, he will give up control of the property empire he built, have a \$450 million personal loan forgiven and own a stake in the company worth \$326 million, although this has been pledged to a bank as collateral for an \$80 million loan.

In June, there was speculation among property developers that Mr Taubman was experiencing a cash squeeze when he sold 37 per cent of his Sotheby's shares for about \$106 million. None of the

proceeds went to Sotheby's, which described that sale as helping Mr Taubman's liquidity position.

Mr Taubman retains two thirds of Sotheby's stake. Three years ago, Mr Taubman's fortune was estimated at \$2 billion. It dropped to \$600 million last year.

Of the offer, 22.4 million shares will be sold in North America and 4 million internationally. Morgan Stanley is the lead investment bank. The offer will help reduce \$610 million of debt to three pension funds, which provided start-up cash to Mr Taubman in 1985. At the highest end of the offer price range, two funds at General Motors and one at AT&T, the telephone group, will get \$327 million in cash and equity valued at \$874 million.

Taubman Centres will be a real estate investment trust whose sole asset is a 32.5 per cent stake in Taubman Realty Group, which owns the shopping centres direct with the Taubman family interests, which control a 26 per cent stake, and General Motors, with 41.5 per cent.

## German call for CIS swaps

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

DRESDNER Bank of Germany has proposed a wide-ranging debt-for-equity swap to relieve the debt problem of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The plan, unveiled yesterday by Wolfgang Röller, chairman of the bank's management board, requires creditor banks accept the rouble as a means of payment in return for equity stakes in Russian enterprises. Russia and its neighbours owe western banks and governments more than \$60 billion, a lasting legacy of the old Soviet Union and a severe constraint to economic reform in these countries.

Dresdner Bank will propose the plan to the steering committee of banks charged with

negotiating debt repayments with the Russian authorities. The committee has reached a number of agreements recently, including a series of 90-day moratoria on repayment of principal. But Dr Röller's plan, goes much beyond what is currently being discussed.

One of the advantages of debt for equity swaps would be a direct rise in foreign investment in Russia's economy. But proposals such as these frequently fail over political difficulties. In this case they would lead to criticism in Russia about German economic domination as German companies and banks would be able to buy Russian assets cheaply.

Dresdner Bank, Deutsche Bank, and other German

banks, were among the largest lenders to the Soviet Union, and have therefore a special interest to achieve a sustainable medium-term solution to Russia's debt problems. Dr Röller was quoted as saying: "time is running out".

Dr Röller was speaking in Hamburg, after he presented the bank's interim results for the first half of this year, which saw a 15 per cent rise in operating profits to DM 1.4 billion. Partial operating profits, which exclude trading profits on the bank's own account, rose from DM 1.07 billion in the same period of the previous year to DM 1.28 billion. Dresdner shares rose DM 7 to close at DM 332 as the rise in profits was much stronger than expected.

## Walbrook Insurance liquidators appointed

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

WALBROOK Insurance, a subsidiary of the collapsed London United Investments group, has lost its battle to save off the appointment of liquidators.

An order in the High Court appointing three provisional liquidators, after a winding-up petition was brought by Transatlantic Casualty, an insolvent American insurer.

Mr Justice Harman approved the appointment of Chris Hughes and Ian Bond, of Cork Gully, and Gareth Hughes, of Ernst & Young.

Walbrook ceased taking new business in 1990, and at the 1991 year-end had liabilities of £1.28 billion, compared with assets of £904

million, a £371 million deficit. It stopped paying claims in May. After his appointment, Mr Bond said the provisional liquidators' first job would be to assess the viability of a scheme of arrangement rather than undertaking full-scale insolvent liquidation.

Mr Bond said: "The appointment of provisional liquidators at this stage should not be regarded as a step towards the eventual liquidation of the company but rather as an opportunity to protect the company's assets and at the same time formulate proposals for a scheme of arrangement, which will be more advantageous to creditors than a liquidation."

## Business failures up in July

Receiverships and administration appointments totalled 474 in July, the highest for four months but still well down, for the sixth consecutive month, on a year ago, according to figures from Touche Ross, the accountant.

In the first seven months, there were 3,192 appointments (3,466). Christopher Morris, insolvency specialist at Touche Ross, said the downward trend was "possibly explained by the high level of support" given by banks' intensive care departments.

July was bad for motor trade firms and there were increases in failures among wholesalers, hotels and catering.

### Radiant losses

Radiant Metal Finishing, the metal finisher and property developer, saw pre-tax losses narrow from £169,002 to £94,000 in the year to end-February. There is no dividend (nil).

### Power pay rise

James Smith, chairman of Eastern Electricity, has joined the list of privatised industry chiefs receiving large pay increases last year with a 112 per cent rise to £243,000 for the year to end-March.

## Canadian Pacific slips into deficit

FROM REUTER IN MONTREAL

CANADIAN Pacific said a substantial improvement in its earnings in the second half of the year will depend on a solid economic recovery. Earnings will also be affected by labour disruptions in the coal industry, which will affect both transportation and energy results.

There should be some benefits in the second half of 1992 from a recovery in rail grain shipments, continuing strong oil and gas production, stable oil prices and gradual improvement in markets for forest products.

Canadian Pacific reported a loss for the first six months of the year of six cents per share on a net loss of C\$18.7 million (£3.2 million) versus a profit of eight cents for the same period in 1991 on net profits of C\$25.6 million.

Wholly owned CP Rail's earnings for the first six months fell to C\$96.1 million, due to a weaker second quarter, from C\$130.5 million in the first six months of 1991.

Labour disputes at the Westar and Fordling coal mines in British Columbia caused a reduction in coal movements. Traffic volumes fell 7 per cent in the second quarter. CP Rail System is continuing contract negotia-

tions with three unions. CP Ships returned to profitability, posting a profit of C\$5.2 million for the first six months versus a loss of C\$9 million. The turnaround stemmed from improved container rates, higher load factors and cost savings.

PanCanadian Petroleum operating income fell to C\$98.3 million from C\$138.6 million. CP holds a majority of PanCanadian's shares through Canadian Pacific Enterprises. Lower contributions from PanCanadian's crude oil hedging programme, lower selling prices and higher provisions for depreciation and depletion offset higher volumes.

Losses from CP's stake in Canadian Pacific Forest Products increased C\$25.7 million to C\$152.7 million, reflecting lower newspaper, pulp and white paper prices. Earnings from CP's 18.9 per cent stake in Laidlaw Inc rose C\$9.2 million to C\$10.1 million over the comparative six-month period.

Marathon Realty's earnings rose C\$50.8 million to C\$123 million. Sales of two office buildings and a 50 per cent stake in three buildings and a development site boosted the result.

## Hartwell makes bid for Trimoco

BY MARTIN WALLER

HARTWELL, the motor dealer bought by the Saudi Arabian-Jameel Group in 1990, has launched a £25.9 million cash offer for Trimoco, the quoted motor dealer, after conversion of loan stock pushed its holding over 30 per cent.

The offer is pitched at 17.5p a share, the Trimoco share price yesterday, and was launched after the market closed last night. Trimoco has in the past enjoyed friendly relations with its biggest shareholders, and two Jameel nominees sit on its board. Roger Smith, the Trimoco chairman, has a corresponding seat on the Hartwell board.

The three non-executives will now resign their posts for legal reasons to prevent any conflict of interest. Hartwell owned 29.8 per cent of Trimoco and 92 per cent of the convertible unsecured loan stock. The conversion rights to the latter have now been exercised and as a result Hartwell will have 39.4 per cent, which under Stock Exchange rules requires it to launch a bid.

Hartwell says that if the offer is a success, prospects for Trimoco's business would be enhanced.

## TI Group — Half Year 1992

	1992	1991
Pre-tax profit	£50.2m	£54.2m
Earnings per share	10.2p	11.4p
Dividend	3.7p	3.5p

"Our existing world-leader businesses, John Crane and Bundy, have performed well in the continuing difficult economic environment, producing growth in both sales and profits.

We are pleased that the acquisition of Dowty has provided us with the opportunity to create a third world-leader business which will strengthen TI's position for the future."

Christopher Lewinton, Chairman

## Midland Bank to guide its Polish twin

By NEIL BENNETT  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER being burned in America and bought by Hong Kong, Midland has still not lost its taste for foreign adventure. The listening bank has enrolled in a crash course of teach-yourself-Polish, after twinning with a struggling lender from Wroclaw.

As part of a \$20 million project sponsored by the World Bank, Midland has been twinned with Bank Zachodni, a privatised part of Poland's state bank. Midland is sending up to ten managers on tours to Zachodni to teach its executives how to survive in a market economy.

Some might question whether Midland, which made profits of only £36 million last year, because of bad debts, is the right institution to teach the Poles how to bank. But it can certainly demonstrate to the pitfalls of western banking from its own experience. Its first lesson is probably never to buy anything called Crocker. Zachodni is one of nine regional

institutions that were formed by the break-up of the dominant central bank. Seven of these have now been twinned with Western institutions. Other banks in the project include the Bank of Ireland, AIB Group and Internationale Nederlanden.

Midland has thrown itself into the mammoth task of helping Zachodni, which has 70 branches around Wroclaw, to turn itself into a western-style lender. The bank is pulling up to ten of its managers out of their peaceful jobs at home and sending them to Poland on three-week tours.

Midland's managers' first barrier is language. They are doing their best to learn Polish but, in some cases, there are no words to describe the ideas they are trying to promote, such as risk management. In the past, lending in Poland was almost risk-free because one part of the state was simply advancing funds to another.

Now all those props have been kicked away, Zachodni, like other lenders, is learning to live with heavy bad debts

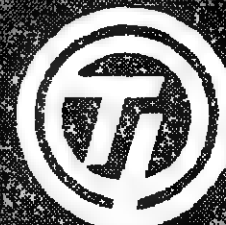
caused by the upheavals in the local mining industry.

Midland is advising Zachodni on how to update its antiquated systems, which will also be funded by the World Bank. In the past, some Polish banks have been sold unsuitable computers and software by western salesmen. Many of the machines are gathering dust in basements.

Marketing is also a difficult concept for Zachodni and its rivals, because, until recently, they never had any competition. Overall, though, Midland is teaching Zachodni about strategy and how to win an advantage over the country's other banks.

Naturally, Midland is not doing all this work for love. The bank hopes its twin will help Midland Montagu, the investment bank, win important privatisation work, while Midland is keen to expand its trade finance business in Poland as the economy begins to recover.

By then, Midland hopes that its twin will be tending its balance sheet, in western-style, like an old hand.



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## Better ideas for housing recovery

Recovery is already a year late, for those who planned their business strategy on the Chancellor's predictions of last summer, and still not visible to the naked eye. No wonder the chorus of suggestions for possible economic detonators is growing by the day. Yesterday's proposals from Lord Alexander of Weedon and from the Woolwich building society show that the degree of common sense and realism may also be growing. Both want an immediate doubling of the ceiling for mortgage interest relief to stimulate the housing market. Lord Alexander, chairman of National Westminster, offers the *quid pro quo* of phasing out relief from the higher level altogether over ten years, an attractive political cocktail. The Woolwich aims to cap the cost by confining extra relief to the year of purchase.

These schemes should genuinely raise demand and be fairer between taxpayers, but they would still be expensive, especially if available to all, regardless of whether they moved house. Even the Woolwich scheme could cost £1 billion in tax. The government's concession on stamp duty, which is about to expire, had twin virtues. It did not require new money, merely diverting the windfall of stamp duty on shares received from the continuing delay in the introduction of the Stock Exchange's computerised settlement system. The tax cost also depended on its success, which has been negligible. There is therefore a case for the government to reopen the concession after a short interval.

Even the campaign for a temporary doubling of interest tax relief now stands some chance of being accepted. It was understandably refused last autumn when the government saw recovery gathering pace without the help of fiscal steroids. The Chancellor can, however, no longer be immune from the doubts about recovery, now universal in business. Before he went on holiday he seemed incapable of making the mental leap needed if he is to gamble on policy moves that raise government borrowing even more over the next 18 months in the hope of reducing recession-induced deficits later on. Perhaps a relaxing break in balmy climes will do the trick.

## Universal remedy

Just as universal banking appeared to have been universally discredited, National Westminster's half-year results suggest there is some merit in the concept after all. If the bank had, like others, shed many of its international interests and non-bank finance business in the late eighties, the figures would have looked sticky. NatWest's core retail operations in Britain plunged to a loss of £74 million in the half year due to depressed income and rising bad debts.

The figures confirm that the British economy is offering the main banks little comfort. So Lord Alexander was relieved to have other strings to his bow. The main one was NatWest Bancorp, the retail bank in New Jersey, which staged a £216 million turnaround to profitability. America's low interest rates have stimulated the sort of banking activity that lenders in Britain must still dream about. NatWest Bancorp was not the only country cousin to pitch in for the group. Lombard North Central, the finance house, supplied a £45 million profit compared with a £1 million loss, and even securities trading provided a modest profit.

British banking is likely to spend the next three years caught between a rock and a hard place. Bad debt provisions will remain high, while income will be under pressure due to low inflation and poor loan demand. Lord Alexander was non-committal yesterday about NatWest's long-term commitment to its American operations. He should be persuaded that the bank needs all the overseas help it can get.

S&P and Moody's are criticised for magnifying recession. Now they face a potential rival, says David Rudnick

More companies, banks and public sector debt issuers than ever before are applying for a credit rating, to allay growing investor unease about their ability to meet their obligations. The disturbing number of defaults and bankruptcies, and the consequent sharp decline in banks' creditworthiness, are pushing credit rating agencies into the limelight. Never has their ability to make timely and accurate judgments been more closely scrutinised.

Often accused of dilatoriness in changing ratings, they are trying hard to respond more quickly without over-reacting to short-term pressures on their clients. Only a day after ICI had pleased stock markets with its plan to split off its Biosciences businesses last week, Standard & Poor's, the big American rating agency, spoilt the party by announcing it had, as a result, put \$2.6 billion of long-term ICI debt on credit watch for possible downgrading.

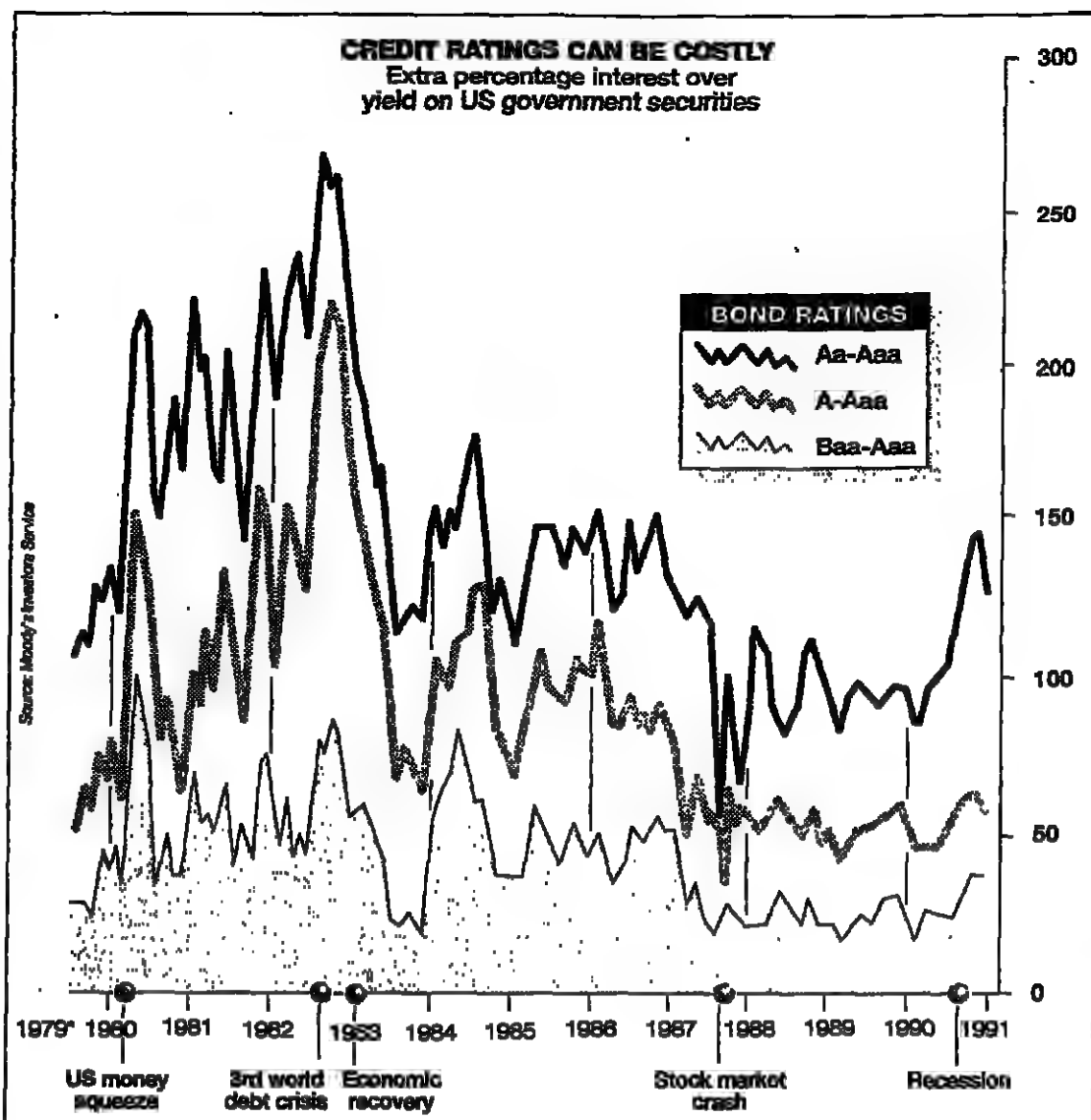
Along with Moody's Investors Service, its American rival, S&P dominates the international credit rating agency business. The big agencies admit, however, that their business hardly rates as an exact science.

Jan Konstany, managing director of Moody's in London, said: "It cannot be stressed enough that the approach is fundamentally qualitative." The emphasis is on evaluating a debt issuer's earning capacity, cash-generating ability and willingness to use cash to meet obligations promptly. If rating analysis has a particular focus, it is on the predicted margin of an issuer's cash flow will have over the funds needed to service debt, should the company enter choppy waters.

Ratings are not based solely on financial ratios; they can encompass everything in an issuer's operating environment. Analysis generally starts with country risk assessment. Political stability and overall economic prospects come first into the picture. How important might a bank be, for example, to the financial system of the country in which it is mainly domiciled? Is the government or central bank likely to help it if it gets into difficulties?

The authorities will probably have less incentive to bail out a small bank than a large one with significant market share that might be promoting a social objective such as home ownership, or that is being used to help fund a stable budget deficit. If an issue is drawn in foreign currency, does the issuer's government have sufficient foreign exchange reserves to come to the rescue if necessary? Access to foreign exchange might be a crucial factor determining a bank's rating.

Other things being equal, a bank's



asset quality tends to be the prime determinant. How liquid and marketable are its assets? How diversified is its loan book? Rating agencies check it for geographical and sectoral spread, maturity profile and type of collateral. Again, if a bank — or a company — is ultimately cushioned by the financial support of the state or a regional authority, it is almost always given a higher rating. In practice, though, only "stand alone" institutions are regarded by insiders as genuinely meriting triple-A status, and there are few of them left.

JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank, Union Bank of Switzerland and Rabobank Nederland are among the select few still holding the accolade with both Moody's and S&P. Barclays and NatWest are among those that have been dethroned. Generally, a bank such as UBS, capable of generating substantial capital internally, will be strongly favoured; so will one with a strong track record on loan losses and provisioning. One that persists in maintaining interest rate or currency positions regardless of movements gets a black mark.

The broad approach extends to the rating of companies. The health of a company's industry is an important starting point. A company in an ailing industry has an upper limit set on its rating potential. S&P places

"integrated steel makers, tyre and rubber companies, home builders and most of the mining sector" in this disadvantaged category, "regardless of how conservative their financial posture may be". Conversely, you are likely to be marked up if you operate in an industry able to maintain profit margins in periods of recession, or if you can achieve a high degree of flexibility in the timing and magnitude of your capital outlays.

This latter point is especially significant, because it enhances cash flow and therefore ability to maintain interest payments. S&P includes pharmaceutical companies and publishers in this favoured class. Industry risk assessment sets the stage for deeper analysis of a company's financial risk. S&P decrees that "for the same rating, a company with a relatively weak business profile will have to show a stronger financial structure, whereas companies with a stronger business risk position can maintain a more aggressive financial posture".

The agency admits that assessment of management quality, though critical, is a particularly subjective aspect of rating. Both S&P and Moody's have conducted corporate bond default studies that show a correlation between rating and de-

fault risk. S&P has found that the ten-year cumulative default rate for speculative-grade (junk) bonds works out at about 20 per cent, compared with less than 8 per cent for investment-grade categories. Moody's assigned junk bond ratings to defaulters such as Maxwell and Polly Peck almost a year before they crashed. Moody's chart offers striking evidence from America that investors take credit ratings seriously and demand higher interest rates on lower-rated issues, particularly in times of economic stress such as 1980-2 and 1991.

Critics argue that the activities of rating agencies raise funding costs and inhibit bank lending in a recession, when counter-cyclical moves are called for. The agencies reply that they are only messengers, reflecting the reality of a changing business and banking environment. They claim they are not telling investors to buy or to sell, only providing them with objective opinion on relative credit risk.

Mr Konstany of Moody's said: "Under 10 per cent of Moody's ratings are changed each year. We don't issue a press release every time we confirm a rating." Others make the point that downgradings are usually slight and would not make the newspapers if deteriorating debt were not already causing concern.

Some banks and securities firms are responding to falling ratings by starting up specially structured companies with purposely over-collateralised debt, to ensure that funds due to investors are covered several times over. These synthetic companies act as vehicles, enabling them to qualify for that increasingly rare triple-A grade. Merrill Lynch, for example, created Merrill Lynch Derivative Products through such a highly capitalised structured deal — and duly collected its shining AAA prize.

Rating agencies are not subject to regulatory supervision but that could be on the way in America. The Securities and Exchange Commission recognises S&P and Moody's and a handful of smaller fry, including IBCA, based in London, conferring prestige without any liability to vetting. Though Richard Breeden, SEC's chairman, believes the market is an adequate regulator, others in the SEC and in Congress are not so sure. John Dingell, who chairs the house energy and commerce committee, wants to see regulation high on the agenda after the presidential election.

Moody's and S&P have long been the two superpowers in the business, but moves are afoot to establish a European third force. Some German banks and companies, in particular, dislike what they see as an inherent American bias in the methods and assumptions used.

The big two strongly rebut charges of parochialism. S&P points out, for instance, that it recognises the European practice of maintaining high levels of debt while holding large portfolios of cash and marketable securities. It adds that it assesses a European company's performance within its own accounting framework and never attempts to fit it into an American framework.

Many German and other sceptics remain unconvinced. One said: "The final decision is always referred to New York, and then taken by people who have never read *Handelsblatt* or the stock exchange's *Börsenzeitung*." S&P and Moody's are accused of operating an international monopoly and of not publishing their annual accounts, which would show excessive profits.

Most of Germany's best known banks and big corporate groups are sponsoring a venture to set up a European rating agency. They hope to incorporate Portugal's small national operation and the French company Eurorat, set up as a reaction to S&P's takeover of Agence d'Evaluation Financière in 1990.

Feelers are also out to IBCA, which has 10 per cent of Eurorat. Robin Monro-Davies, IBCA's managing director, is wary of the German scheme. "They've been talking about it for years," he said, "but it's like the Cheshire cat — a chimera that changes its shape and its goals every six months."

Nevertheless, the chimera could be about to become flesh. Bertelsmann, the German publishing group, is expected to announce a sizable, or even a controlling, stake in a new venture before the end of the year. Joining its fellow publishers, Dun and Bradstreet and McGraw Hill.

London's de-highlighted week, may be resolution, has told the P. Charles will consider £500,000 a scheme. The arrangement of York, occupied for... is collaborative authorities of the diet to high sit, of the a letter to Stevens. Some to use dlish Heri-dquarters: far from vs that the ie offer of it is not save the immediate d that £2 make the... Lee the an wear urel. The of Do the s already all cap as arm for kers, has all clothed at the sales, fol- in New London, an and auction, e called r jeans, is, and t-1 street-



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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Accommodating corporate games

SIR John Harvey-Jones could soon be catching up again with some of the colourful budding eastern European entrepreneurs he brought to our screens as part of his *Troubleshooter* series. About 200 businessmen from the former Soviet Union are hoping to be in London in September for the fifth World Corporate Games when Sir John will host the keynote business enterprise day. The games are the largest international corporate athletics meeting and about 800 companies have already signed up. Maureen Johnston, a spokeswoman, says eastern European businessmen see the games as an opportunity to make contacts. Interest is at record levels but the cost is a problem. Many of the Latvians will be camping at Crystal Palace to save money, but she hopes British people and companies will offer to entertain some of the eastern Europeans in their homes or in company accommodation. "It is a wonderful opportunity for a business or cultural exchange," she says, adding that a similar plea at the California games resulted in 490 responses. The number to call is 071-351 1992.

### Get the picture

LLOYDS Bank's loss is Birmingham's gain — at least in the case of an acquisition that the Birmingham City Museum has just made of one of the rare examples of Constable's portraiture. The painting is of James Lloyd, whose father,



Harvey-Jones: host

Charles Lloyd, the Quaker banker, set up the bank that bears his name, and who introduced Constable to Cole-ridge and Wordsworth. According to Jane Farrington, keeper of fine art, the portrait was probably not offered to the bank but was offered direct to the museum, which paid £6,000 for it — about half its market value, she believes — in a private treaty with the Lloyd family. Compared with Constable's landscapes, his portraiture is not outstanding, Farrington says, which is reflected in the price — the artist's *The Loch* fetched £9.8 million at auction. Farrington says, however, that the portrait is "charming though not distinguished" and is important to Birmingham because of Charles Lloyd's connections with the city.

ENTREPRENEURS who live, breathe and eat their products often cannot get them out of their minds. Ice cream king Henry D. Clarke, chairman of

Clarke Foods, the Lyons Maid ice cream and lolly group, is the latest example. He describes production problems encountered by his company earlier this year as having had "a ripple effect on performance". Raspberry flavoured, presumably.

### Men overboard

THE equity desk at UBS Phillips & Drew is fast becoming known as one of the unhappiest ships in the City, with pressure on pay and at least seven key departures in recent months. Mark Simpson, who worked on P&D's transport team, rated number one by Enel, is joining James Capel in September and James Dean, specialist chemicals and pharmaceuticals salesman, is also moving to Capel on Monday. In July, P&D lost its top banking team, Peter Toeman and Steve Thorn, to Hoare Govett, along with Trevor Griffiths, salesman. James Kinchie, in conglomerates, and Youssef Zizi, who covered insurance, have also quit to join Morgan Stanley. A senior source within P&D says the firm has "screwed down costs" and refused to match salaries being offered by competitors. "We may have gone too far," he admits. "I'd say there is more discontent here about salaries and bonuses than in the average UK house but whether we change anything depends on the second half. There was a surge of blood and a bull market in analysts in the first half of the year but it's pretty desperate again now."

DEBRA ISAAC

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### Regulatory bodies could do with independent advice

From Mr J. M. F. Padovan  
Sir, The topical subject of corporate governance and the desirability of involving non-executive or "independent" directors centres on the belief that this leads to the making of better and more responsible corporate decisions. Independents are expected to be good at distinguishing the wood from the trees, and at making sure the executives (normally with unquestioned technical competence) use to the full the experience and objectivity which non-executives can bring.

Why, then, with near unanimity among both practitioners and regulators on the desirability of the independent input, is it ignored as an aid to good decision-taking in some

regulatory bodies themselves? Take the Serious Fraud Office. Would it not be sensible to have a panel of senior professionals, businessmen and academics, a quorum (of three or four) who could be co-opted when major decisions are to be taken on whether to prosecute, what charges to bring, how much "plea bargaining" to allow, what further resources to allocate to an investigation, etc?

There is little confidence in the effectiveness or efficiency of "City" prosecutions in recent years: the success ratio has been low and judgment on which cases to press on with and which to abandon has looked unbalanced to say the least. The SFO has achieved little in protecting the

City's good name at a time when this has never been more important and when most would agree that in reality London is a "cleaner" place to do business than any comparable financial centre.

Additionally, I question why taxpayers should constantly bear the cost of amazingly expensive and unnecessarily long drawn out prosecutions without at least knowing that both "executives" and "independents" have joined in deciding that justice, public policy and the likelihood of success all require that a particular course of action be progressed.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN PADOVAN,  
Ebbgate House,  
2 Swan Lane, EC4.

### Government must resist siren calls for increase in borrowing

From Mr Douglas McBean  
Sir, The growth of public expenditure was contained in the UK for a considerable period during the years of the Thatcher government and has only now been relaxed in the face of a worldwide recession.

I was therefore surprised to read in *Business Times* (July 30) that the director general of the CBI believes that a further increase in borrowing should be undertaken by government "to finance higher investment or measures to speed recovery" — the government must avoid such siren calls at all cost.

Conversely, now is surely the time for Michael Portillo, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to undertake a radical reappraisal of the objectives of public spending — increasing resources for targeting at those truly in need of state assistance should be the goal.

The urgent task for government must be to encourage

those who are able and willing to do so to reduce their dependency on the state, thereby reducing the gross national product dedicated to welfare, pensions, health and education.

Similarly, businesses must be disabused of the privileges of subsidy which so distort the national economy. Just as government has set course to squeeze inflation from the UK economy, so it must also eliminate the growing tendency for annual and unjustified increases in the budgetary process.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS J. McBEAN,  
24 Pampus Close,  
Highwoods,  
Colchester, Essex.

From J. Brading  
Sir, Your cartoon in today's (July 29) *City Diary* "It's so gloomy I can't read this CBI Survey" is very apposite. Maybe the gloom makes the CBI

blind to the effect of its own surveys! Does the CBI really think that announcing that there is still no recovery in sight will inspire the nation to the business confidence that will lead us out of recession, or at least assist in turning the corner? Is it not rather the case that their own pronouncements serve only to lock us further into the vicious circle that they recognise exists?

Maybe it is time for an embargo, even if only a voluntary one, by industrialists, economists and politicians, on all the surveys and indicators that regularly bombard us and destroy what growing confidence there might have been. An embargo, that is, save for those items of encouragement which are regularly swamped in the rush to pronounce yet more bad news.

Yours faithfully,  
I. BRADING,  
1 Telford Way,  
Luton, Bedfordshire.

## THE TIMES ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE

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The Board of Management of Akzo N.V. announces that on August 4, 1992 the results for the 1st half year 1992 were published. Copies of this report may be obtained from the London Paying Agents:

Barclays Bank PLC  
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166 Fenchurch Street  
London EC3P 3HP  
and  
Midland Securities Service  
Suffolk House  
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5 Laurence Pountney Hill  
London EC4R 0EU

or at the offices of  
Akzo N.V.  
Velperweg 76  
P.O. Box 5300  
6800 SB Arnhem  
The Netherlands

A summary of the results will be presented in the August 17 issue of this paper

Arnhem, August 5, 1992

Akzo N.V., The Netherlands



### FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

Although the cost of coal mined in Britain is about twice world market levels, British Coal is the victim of political circumstance. American producers are threatening retaliatory trade measures against the EC if anti-dumping charges are enforced by the commission and Brussels



A source close to the Americans pointed out that the commission normally decided whether to follow up a trade complaint within about two months of it being filed. British Coal originally filed last year and sent a second letter to Brussels in February.

### Unlikely candidate: Taikichiro Mori at work

He was born in 1904 into the family of a Tokyo businessman who owned a rice shop and managed 30 properties in the area. After graduating from the Tokyo College of Commerce, he became an academic, while maintaining

He has seen Tokyo destroyed twice, by the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923 and by American bombing in the second world war. For Mori, it was the chance to rebuild not with the tradition-

**BY ROSS TIEMAN**  
**INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT**

"When promises of this nature are broken, rather than mere disappointment, individuals experience a more emotional reaction because it constitutes a breach of the psychological contract which exists between employees and employers," Dr Newell said.

## BY COLIN CAMPBELL

"I totally do not accept the criticism," Sir Michael added. He was referring to an action brought by Plateau Gravel of Cornwall against Charter

Sir Michael said yesterday that his board did not condone the actions that led to the case being brought to court. He declined further comment on

Gold Fields Property, the South African property and investment group, reports sharply lower pre-tax profits at R4.62 million (R15.1 million) for the six months ended June 30. The fall follows a reduction in the amount realised from the sale of fixed assets in the latest half-year. The interim is effectively held at 13 cents a share, after adjustment for the previous year's special dividend of 163 cents.

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

A Miti spokesman said: "Emergency imports should have a quick effect on cutting Japan's trade surplus, while the creation of foreign-access zones will help boost public works spending."

The government has not yet set an exact amount for the import-boosting package, but Miti has proposed that Japan spend at least the same sum as in the 1987 emergency package, aimed at boosting the economy and imports.

More than half of the companies said they had more than enough inventory and production facilities in the April-June period, but that they expected their current profit to improve slightly towards the end of 1992. Manufacturers saw their capital investment remaining slow in 1992, but the service sector expected capital investment to increase.

Many of the difficulties may simply reflect the human side of teething troubles common to any new plant. But the disaffection felt by employees at new sites appears to be translated into reduced enthusiasm for work, which could affect productivity and innovation.

Dr Newell's findings showed greenfield site employees were more likely to regard their job as just a means of earning a living. They were also dissatisfied with training, unhappy about pay differentials, pessimistic about promotion prospects and dissatisfied with the way in which their unions carried out their role.

But ironically, most intend ed to stay with the new company. Although expectations were not fulfilled, the rewards remained attractive, and for all its perceived shortcomings, the new site was a better place to work than any previously experienced.

## THE INSURER WITHOUT FRONTIERS:

The Generali Group has continued its expansion in the various countries in which it operates. In Italy it was the majority partner in the foundation of Asesiba, a life company which in its business will use the network of financial advisers and branches of the Banca Commerciale Italiana. In Austria and Germany, on the basis of the agreement reached with the RAS Group, arrangements were made for the reorganization of the two groups' presence. In exchange for shareholdings in local companies we acquired control of Internufall Versicherung AG of Vienna. Internufall Allgemeine Versicher-

ings-AG of Hamburg and Münchener Lebensversicherung AG of Munich. In Belgium, Greece, Switzerland, Hungary, Argentina, and Mexico further expansion was carried out through the acquisition of majority holdings or the foundation of new companies.

In Spain an agreement was signed with the Banco Central Hispanoamericano which led to the setting up of the Central Hispano-Generali Holding de Entidades de Seguros, embracing six insurance companies with 200 billion pesetas' worth of business.

- The total of claims paid was ECU 5,091.4m.
- Provisions for insurance liabilities increased by ECU 3,556.7m.
- Production and administrative costs totalled ECU 2,591.9m (+12.2%).
- Investment income totalled ECU 2,434.9m (+25.2%).
- Investments totalled ECU 31,956.3m, against which provisions for insurance liabilities totalled ECU 26,065.6m.
- Overall shareholders' equity amounted to ECU 6,128.4m, of which 83% belongs to the Parent Company.
- The year's profit of ECU 366.6m (20.6% more than in 1990) was the result of:

- This statement consolidates 74 insurance companies (including 7 Europ Assistance companies) operating in some 40 markets, 21 holding companies, 21 property companies and 3 agricultural concerns.
- Gross premiums totalled ECU 10,406m (+17.1%); ECU 4,068.4m in Life insurance and ECU 6,346.6m in Non-Life.

	1991	1990
	247,402	228,304
	244,803	803,358
-	65,185	- 676,494
	437,020	355,170
-	70,418	- 51,063
	366,602	304,107

Central Head Office in Trieste (Italy) - United Kingdom Branch in London

The Generali Group also operates in the United Kingdom through Dog Breeders' Insurance, Northern Star Insurance, Europa Insurance, Hambro Generali Fund Managers, Europ Assistance.



Prices were marked higher initially as investors decided to cover outstanding short positions. But attempts at extending Monday's rally proved short-lived with investors expressing concern about the

On the futures market, the long gilt touched a high for the day of £97 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>16</sub> before

At the longer end, Treasury 9 per cent 2008 finished 11 ticks off at £99<sup>21/32</sup>, while in mediums Treasury 10 per cent 2001 ended £4 down at £102<sup>23/32</sup>.

1992		1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1990	12.32	11.45	11.51	11.59	11.61	11.62	11.63	11.64	11.65
1991	11.69	11.70	11.71	11.72	11.73	11.74	11.75	11.76	11.77
1992	11.82	11.83	11.84	11.85	11.86	11.87	11.88	11.89	11.90
1993	11.95	11.96	11.97	11.98	11.99	12.00	12.01	12.02	12.03
1994	12.08	12.09	12.10	12.11	12.12	12.13	12.14	12.15	12.16
1995	12.21	12.22	12.23	12.24	12.25	12.26	12.27	12.28	12.29
1996	12.34	12.35	12.36	12.37	12.38	12.39	12.40	12.41	12.42
1997	12.47	12.48	12.49	12.50	12.51	12.52	12.53	12.54	12.55
1998	12.60	12.61	12.62	12.63	12.64	12.65	12.66	12.67	12.68
1999	12.73	12.74	12.75	12.76	12.77	12.78	12.79	12.80	12.81
2000	12.86	12.87	12.88	12.89	12.90	12.91	12.92	12.93	12.94
2001	12.99	13.00	13.01	13.02	13.03	13.04	13.05	13.06	13.07
2002	13.12	13.13	13.14	13.15	13.16	13.17	13.18	13.19	13.20
2003	13.25	13.26	13.27	13.28	13.29	13.30	13.31	13.32	13.33
2004	13.38	13.39	13.40	13.41	13.42	13.43	13.44	13.45	13.46
2005	13.51	13.52	13.53	13.54	13.55	13.56	13.57	13.58	13.59
2006	13.64	13.65	13.66	13.67	13.68	13.69	13.70	13.71	13.72
2007	13.77	13.78	13.79	13.80	13.81	13.82	13.83	13.84	13.85
2008	13.90	13.91	13.92	13.93	13.94	13.95	13.96	13.97	13.98
2009	14.03	14.04	14.05	14.06	14.07	14.08	14.09	14.10	14.11
2010	14.16	14.17	14.18	14.19	14.20	14.21	14.22	14.23	14.24
2011	14.29	14.30	14.31	14.32	14.33	14.34	14.35	14.36	14.37
2012	14.42	14.43	14.44	14.45	14.46	14.47	14.48	14.49	14.50
2013	14.55	14.56	14.57	14.58	14.59	14.60	14.61	14.62	14.63
2014	14.68	14.69	14.70	14.71	14.72	14.73	14.74	14.75	14.76
2015	14.81	14.82	14.83	14.84	14.85	14.86	14.87	14.88	14.89
2016	14.94	14.95	14.96	14.97	14.98	14.99	15.00	15.01	15.02
2017	15.07	15.08	15.09	15.10	15.11	15.12	15.13	15.14	15.15

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Anglian Group Sp (210)	215	+5
Brent Walker Wis	2	
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	
Dartmoor Inv Trs Warrants	7	
Dwyer A	19	
European Smiler Cos Uts	475	
Finlan Group (100)	96	-3
Finbury Smiler Co 0% Prf	146	

HSBC HK10 (35)	356	-1
Henderson Eurotrust Ord 62		
-do- Units	92	
-do- Zero Prf	29	+ 1/2
Kenwood App (285)	285	
Kiwiwor Endr Ply (100)	102	
Latin Amer Inc/Op (E10)	89	
MCF Furniture (115)	116	

Multitrust Warrants	11	...
Qualify Care Hms (136)	150	...
Tannin Cider (140)	160	...
Telegraph (325)	285	...
Vega Group (122)	130	...
<b>RIGHTS ISSUES</b>		
Finlan Group N/P (100)		...



Greenfield  
workers  
suffering  
the blues

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Seven T	Water	
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Vodafone	Telecom	
South West	Water	
Ind Ind	Industrial	
Widened Elm	Electrical	
Ranger	Oil/Gas	
BSC	Industrial	
Westland	Industrial	
Nichols UN	Food	
Smithline Ltd	Industrial	
Harwood Fds	Water	
Leigh	Chemicals	
Yorkshire W	Water	
SA Breweries	Breweries	
Wessex Water	Water	
Mifed	Electrical	
Eurochem Ph	Chemicals	
Anglian Water	Water	
LASMO	Oil/Gas	
Charter Cons	Industrial	
Burdess	Banking	
North West	Water	
Groycor	Property	
Life Sciences	Electrical	
Red Ind	Chemicals	
Abey Nil	Banking	
Coat Vellia	Drugs/Sun	
Medeva	Industrial	
Hickson	Chemicals	
De La Rue	Industrial	
Land	Industrial	
Beverly	Oil/Gas	
BAT	Tobacco	
Northumbrian	Water	
Lacus	Chemicals	
Kolort	Industrial	
Admiral	Electrical	
Brnol	Chemicals	
Teco	Food	
Burd	Food	

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MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly

Mr Paul McCartney, of Oxford, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

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size yesterday.					
1992	Price	Net	Yld		
Low Company	(p)	-/-	ow	%	P/E



## FOOTBALL

# Dublin set to become Cascarino's partner

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DUBLIN Dublin yesterday looked set for a £1 million move from Cambridge probably to Chelsea, who appear to be the favourites to sign him.

The recent departures from Stamford Bridge of Kerry Dixon, to Southampton for £575,000, and Clive Allen, to West Ham United for £275,000, after the £2.2 million sale of Gordon Durie to Tottenham, means that Dublin could be regarded as the new partner for Tony Cascarino.

Dublin missed his club's pre-season photocall on Monday because he was said to be feeling unwell but the Cambridge chairman, Reg Smart, later admitted that the player was at the core of transfer activity. "Dion is going to talk to a Premier League club. We are close to a deal," he said.

Smart reacted calmly when Chelsea was mentioned. And without confirming them as the club involved, he added: "Negotiations are at a delicate stage — and another Premier League club are very, very interested in the player." Crystal Palace, Aston Villa and Wimbledon have all been linked with Leicester-born Dublin, who joined Cambridge from Norwich in January 1989.

Rick Holden, the winger, has agreed to join Manchester City from Oldham Athletic in a £1.2 million package but the deal — which involves Steve Redmond and Neil Poulton going the other way for £300,000 — has yet to be completed. Poulton is in dis-

pute with City, claiming they owe him money.

Reading are giving a trial to Mike Masters, an American forward, who helped Colchester United win the GM Vauxhall Conference and the FA Trophy last season.

The second division club's manager, Mark McGhee, is keen to sign an experienced forward as cover for himself and Jimmy Quinn and is also expected to sign the former Derby County forward, John Clayton, from the Dutch club, Volendam.

Clayton, aged 30, the Football League's top scorer in 1985, wants a move back to England after four years in Holland and he has been training at Elm Park. Volendam want £30,000 for the former Tranmere Rovers and Plymouth Argyle goalscorer but McGhee wants him to play in a pre-season match against Manchester United before deciding.

Crystal Palace and Southampton are competing for Keith Rowland, Bournemouth's Northern Ireland youth international left back. With Bournemouth £2 million in debt, their manager, Tony Pulis, is in no position to turn down offers for good players but he wants £300,000 for Rowland. "We have to be realistic," he said. "But we will not sell our best players cheaply."

Allan Harris, the former assistant to Terry Venables at both Barcelona and Tottenham, is to become head coach at the Kuwait Sporting Club.

## Officials explain how the back-pass works

FOOTBALL'S top administrators attempted to take the heat out of the back-pass controversy yesterday when they met players, referees and managers in Birmingham.

The Premier League starts a week on Saturday, and FIFA's new rule will be seen at Wembley this weekend when Leeds United and Liverpool meet in the Charity Shield.

Officials desperately want to clear up inevitable confusion before the season gets under way, and a Football League official said: "The purpose of the meeting is to try to get a clearer understanding of the new law changes, and to discuss them together."

The League wrote to all 93 clubs, inviting captains, PFA delegates and managers to

listen to Ken Riddon, the FA's director of refereeing and his Football League counterpart, John Goggins, on the law.

Fifa introduced the new regulation officially just 12 days ago — ruling that it was illegal for a goalkeeper to touch with his hands a ball that has been kicked back to him. But it has already been forced to amend the original version because players in Germany have been getting down on their knees to push the ball back to their goalkeepers in cheeky attempts to bend the rules.

Fifa has done that loophole and also warned that if a player flicks the ball up with his foot onto his head to nod it back to his goalkeeper, that too, will result in a booking.

## Maidstone may yet move

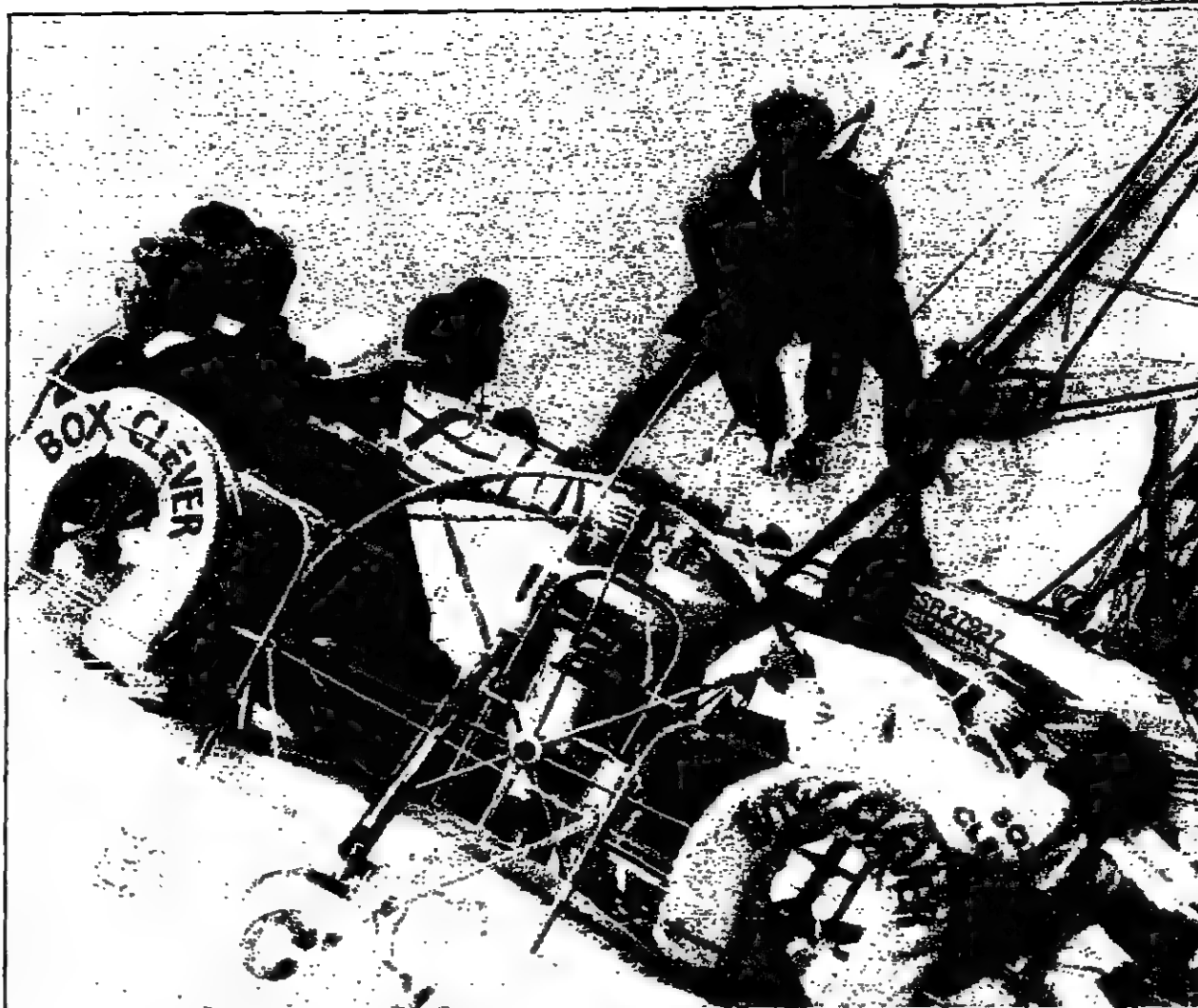
MAIDSTONE United's future has again been thrown into doubt, with the new season 11 days away.

The Kent club, with debts of £650,000 and just two players registered with the Football League, could still be on the move to the North East. Although ground-sharing arrangements with Newcastle were rejected on Monday, it was revealed yesterday that talks are still taking place about sharing with another, unnamed club in the area.

Yesterday's meeting with Maidstone shareholders and creditors was adjourned after they were told the news.

Brendan Batson, assistant secretary of the Professional Footballers' Association, said after the meeting: "Our position is that if there is any restructuring of the club, wherever it is, they would have to meet all monies owed to players past and present."

"It is a tall order to try and do what they intend doing. I hope they are realistic."



All aboard: Box Clever manoeuvres off Calshot in the Sigma 38 class at Cowes Week yesterday

## Bailey captures Camrose crown

By ALEX RAMSAY

CONDITIONS improved in dramatic fashion for the fourth day of racing at Land Rover Cowes Week yesterday.

With a Force 4 wind and clear blue skies, the scene was set for a perfect day's sailing — providing the boats could get past the starting line.

In more than one class, the yachts sped off to the sound of the gun only to make straight for Gurnard Ledge, where they struck the rocks with startling regularity. But once past the obstacle, the conditions made for excellent racing.

The main race of the day was the Camrose Memorial Trophy for Sigma 38s. Malcolm Strong and Jeremy Aitchison were going for their

third successive trophy win, with impudence, but fell foul of the leading Sigma of the week, Arbitrator, owned by Stephen Bailey.

Arbitrator, with three wins under her belt already this week, crossed the line almost 3½ minutes ahead of impudence thanks to the skill of Graham Bailey, who made his name in dinghy sailing, at the helm.

Further down the field, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Edward rounded off their Cowes week racing with thirteenth place in Yeoman XXVIII, their worst result of the week.

The Royal Family did not have the most successful of days. Prince Michael tried his hand in the Daring class, sailing Division Belle, owned

by Sir Michael Grylls. The best they could manage was a 21st place in a field of 22, the Jack Raymond Challenge Trophy going to Jamie Clark's Loop Garon VIII.

In the CHS Class 4, two old friends from Crouch Yacht Club, Burnham, came unscathed. As the racing started, Harmony 87 and Ace of Hearts 100, owned by Peter Dier and Ian Hart, both thought they had run aground at the same time.

Harmony called for water but could only watch in dismay as Ace of Hearts 100 veered around, holding Harmony's stern and leaving the boom severely bent.

With one crew providing the beer and the other providing the sandwiches, the insurance negotiations began. Harmony

was restored in spirit if not in practice.

There was confusion at the start of the CHS Class 1 race. Camp Freddie was making great progress, heading downwind at a steady 18 knots, but crossed the line ahead of both the fleet and the gun and was subsequently disqualified.

Chris Little's Boulder abided by the letter of the law, crossing the finishing line with 1½ minutes to spare to win his second race of the week.

Also making their way towards the overall class trophy are James Gresham and Nicholas Inchbold, with their Contessa 32, Trader Jo. They recorded their fourth win of the regatta, finishing 2½ minutes ahead of Gaudet, owned by Tony Soanes.

## BOWLS

## A double reverse for Anton

By DAVID REYNOLDS

PRIZED though the team titles may be at Royal Leamington Spa, the blue ribbon of the Liverpool Victoria English Women's Bowling Association championships is the four-wood singles, for the winner traditionally finds a place in the England side in the following summer.

This happy thought was additional encouragement for the 70 competitors from 35

counties but two of the strongest contenders, who must have harboured high hopes, failed even to reach the first round. Catharine Anton and Gill Fitzgerald, two-wood champions in 1989 and 1990, went out to Amanda Leeman, of Yorkshire, and Margaret Heggie, of Cumbria, respectively.

Anton, a junior international, who raised a few eyebrows

when she qualified for these championships in all five leading events, lost 21-7 and then suffered an even more humiliating defeat in the fourth. Her Peterborough quartet lost 25-4 to Wickford British Legion.

Fitzgerald, who was voted woman bowler of the year when she collected two national titles two years ago, has yet to be recognised by the England selectors.

She will, no doubt, have to wait a bit longer after scoring only four shots against Heggie, a resolute skip for Cumbria and England.

Heggie, who had a splendid international series at Bournemouth last month, promptly went out to Janet Newman, of Bournemouth, Buckinghamshire, no doubt with her eye on a recall to the England side, just to another international, Norma May, of West Cornwall.

Margaret Ashford, of Beccles Conservatives, the 1989 England president, was dispatched 21-7 by Topsham's Jean Blackford, and quickly resumed her official duties, collecting money, in a bucket, for the Red Cross.

## POLO

## Tramontana inspired by Gracidas

THE contest for the six-chukka, 26-goal Prince Philip Trophy continued at Siedham, Sussex, yesterday, with the match between Anthony Embiricos's Tramontana and William Bond Elliott's Santa Fe (John Watson writes).

From the moment Tramontana's No. 2, Carlos Gracidas, galloped away, unmarked, from the first throw-in to score, his foursome stayed in the lead. They owed their ascendancy to the intuitive interplay and wizardry of the beautifully mounted ten-goal Gracidas brothers, from Mexico, backed by the steady Martin Brown. Their player-patron also played a useful tactical game in the No. 1 slot.

Santa Fe, who were not nearly so well integrated, did not break their duck until over halfway through the second chukka, when Alferdi and Forsyth got three in quick succession. But there was no stopping mighty Tramontana, who ran out 12-6 winners.

TRAMONTANA: 1. A. Embiricos (2); 2. C. Gracidas (10); 3. M. Brown (3); 4. J. Watson (1). SANTA FE: 1. A. Forsyth (2); 2. C. Forsyth (1); 3. A. Alferdi (1); 4. J. Watson (1).

## RUGBY UNION

## Farr-Jones voices doubts

Sydney: Nick Farr-Jones, the captain of Australia, the world champions, said yesterday that he wanted a reassessment of his team's imminent tour of South Africa after the deaths there during this week's national general strike.

"I am going to have a very good look and ask a lot of questions in the next couple of days to see what's going on and see how the New Zealand-

ers are going," he said after the four-match tour, which includes an international on August 22.

New Zealand arrived in the Republic early last week but began their four-match tour with a 43-25 victory over Natal on Saturday.

The Australian Rugby Football Union said yesterday that the national strike had of changed any plans for the tour. (Reuters)

Prince fresh

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**BASEBALL**  
NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati Reds 4, Houston Astros 0; Montreal Expos 3, Chicago Cubs 2; St. Louis Cardinals 2, Philadelphia Phillies 1; San Diego Padres 3, San Francisco Giants 5.

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**: Baltimore Orioles 6, Detroit Tigers 3; Boston Red Sox 7, Toronto Blue Jays 1; Cleveland Indians 6, New York Yankees 6 (12); Oakland A's 4, Texas Rangers 1.

**GOLF**  
PGA EUROPEAN TOUR: Money-winner: 1. N. Faldo (Eng), 314.300; 2. J. M. Olazábal (Spain), 313.975; 3. A. Johnstone (Grt), 309.182; 4. A. Forsberg (Swe), 307.782; 5. B. Langer (Ger), 306.150; 6. C. Montgomerie (Sct), 307.275; 7. G. Brand (Ire), 306.150; 8. P. Senior (Aus), 305.045; 9. J. R. Harris (Eng), 304.438; 10. P. O'Malley (Aus), 300.112.

**BOWLS**  
BOURNEMOUTH: Open tournament: Singles: 1. R. Piddock (10) vs D. Smith (21); 2. J. Larnes (15) vs D. W. Jones (18); 3. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 4. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 5. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 6. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 7. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 8. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 9. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 10. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 11. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 12. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 13. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 14. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 15. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 16. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 17. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 18. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 19. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 20. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 21. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 22. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 23. J. B. Smith (15) vs G. W. Jones (18); 24. J. B. 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# Prince Hannibal poised for fresh success at Brighton

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

PRINCE Hannibal can win the BTRB Handicap at Brighton today for the second year in succession. When he won it last year carrying 9st 10lb, the weight that he has again today, he was recording his fourth victory of the season.

The closest that the five-year-old has come to visiting the winner's enclosure this season was at Lingfield in June when he was beaten three-quarters of a length by Chatham Island, to whom he was conceding 24lb. Chatham Island subsequently won a competitive race at Yarmouth.

Last time out Prince Hannibal was only sixth behind Knock Knock in the Sandringham Handicap at Ascot but after an absence of six weeks that was not a true reflection of his ability.

Earlier in the season he had finished a good third behind

Monarda and Abingdon Fly over today's course and distance.

Not surprisingly Paul Cole, the trainer of Monarda, has declined this opportunity to take on Prince Hannibal again on 9lb worse terms.

In the circumstances, Simon, who has won over today's course and distance this season, should form the nucleus of Prince Hannibal's opposition, along with the recent winners Storm Dust and Scenic Dancer. Storm Dust is not penalised for winning a race confined to apprentices by three-and-a-half lengths at Newmarket last Friday.

Scarlet Princess, beaten only half a length and a neck by Martineau and Ayr Raider at Chesham last time after winning at Nottingham, is taken to give Prince Hannibal's jockey Willie Carson a second taste of success by winning the Levy Board Handicap.

At Pontefract, Brilliant can give her rider Lydia Pearce another lift towards realising her goal of becoming the champion woman jockey by winning the Hyde Sporting Promotions Ladies Handicap. Last time out the same combination looked unlikely not to win a similar but slightly shorter race at Beverley, having previously won at the Yorkshire track and also at Warwick.

Today's nap, though, is Penny Hasset to win the Parkside Innes and Leisure

Handicap. When this greatly improved sprinter won a three-horse race at Hamilton last Thursday she was registered her sixth win from nine starts this season. She does not incur a penalty for beating Furilla by two lengths because it was for apprentices.

Prince Belfort also goes unpenalised for beating Penny Hasset's stable and galloping companion Catherine Wells by half a length at Camerick the day before.

Mick Easterby, the trainer of both Penny Hasset and Catherine Wells, has not been deterred from taking on Prince Belfort again.

Brandenhorst looks a good bet to win the Tattersall's Maiden Auction series qualifying following that promising debut at Doncaster where he was beaten only a neck by the more experienced Chevroton.

## Higson outlines Arc programme for Karinga Bay

BY JACK WATERMAN

ALL the many disappointments associated with Karinga Bay evaporated in the Brighton sunshine yesterday when Brian Ross took him confidently ahead coming down the hill and went on for a 10-length victory at 6-4 on over his two opponents in the South Coast Stakes.

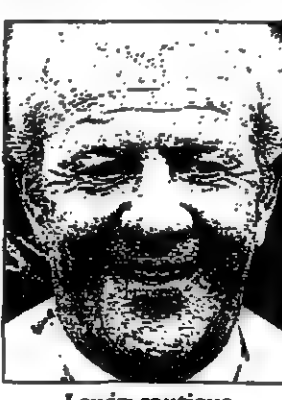
Karinga Bay, fifth in the 1990 Derby, took the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood that year but had not won again until yesterday after a career taking in an exotic variety of races, including the Sha Tin in Hong Kong and Baden-Baden in Germany, as well as Royal Ascot.

In March, his owner, Ken Higson, sent him to be trained at Epsom by Geoff Lewis. "Just what he needed," Lewis said. "He's never had an easy race in his life before. He now goes for the Royal Whip at the Curragh in 11 days' time."

Higson, whose first-ever Brighton win this was, outlined a long-term aim, saying: "He's the only horse I've had good enough to run in the Arc and I don't care if he finishes last."

Meanwhile, Lewis counselled caution with the race some way ahead and added that his smart two-year-old, Silver Wizard goes for the Gimcrack. Plans for his Derby third, Silver Wisp, will be discussed today with the owner, the Great Voltigeur a possibility.

Earlier, Lester Piggott



Lewis cautious

### YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

**Brighton**  
Going: firm  
2.00 (1m 11yds) 1. CHUMMIE'S CHILD (P. Eddery, 5-1), 2. Beechwood Cottage (P. Eddery, 5-1), 3. White Mistle (S. Pegg, 10-1), 4. ALSO (S. Pegg, 10-1), 5. Monmouth (S. Pegg, 10-1), 6. Moving Force (S. Pegg, 10-1), 7. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 8. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 9. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 10. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 11. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 12. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 13. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 14. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 15. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 16. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 17. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 18. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 19. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 20. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 21. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 22. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 23. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 24. The Lord of the Rings (S. Pegg, 10-1), 25. 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## Lamb foiled by a ruse

1200: Basketball: women's semi-finals.  
Volleyball: men's quarter-finals.  
1400: Volleyball: men's play-off for 11th/12th.  
1500: Baseball: play-off for 3rd/4th.  
1600: Hockey: classification and semi-finals.  
Wrestling (freestyle): 67, 62, 74, 82, 90kg, eliminations.  
1800: Athletics: women's shot, qualifying.  
1830: Volleyball: men's play-off for 5th/10th.  
Wrestler pool: preliminary round.  
1930: Athletics: decathlon (high jump).

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## Kenyans angered by reinstatement of Skah



Skah: gold medal

FROM JOHN GOODBODY  
IN BARCELONA

KENYA'S athletics team in Barcelona were still seething last night at the reinstatement of Khalid Skah, of Morocco, as winner of the 10,000 metres. A team official, however, dismissed any suggestions of protest action over the incident.

Isaiah Kiplagat, the Kenyan *chef de mission*, said that a boycott of remaining events was "not a way to solve anything. All we want is a fair hearing". Kenya have protested that Skah had been unfairly paced by his compatriot,

Hammou Boutayeb, and deprived Richard Chelimo of the gold medal.

The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) yesterday reversed the decision of the referees, who had originally disqualified the Moroccan. It is the first time that a runner has been disqualified and then reinstated as the winner in an Olympic track race since Chris Brasher, of Britain, in the 1956 steeplechase.

Kiplagat said that the Kenyan delegation reserved "the right to take whatever other action may be deemed necessary" as a result of the IAAF

decision. But he emphasised this would not include the team withdrawing from the Games.

The IAAF is not planning to hold another meeting to discuss the affair. Istvan Gyulai, its secretary general, said: "The decision is final."

As a result of the decision, Chelimo gets the silver medal and Adis Abebe, of Ethiopia, the bronze, with Salvatore Antibo, of Italy, fourth. The medal ceremony will be today when, no doubt, the crowd will renew its protest at Skah's victory.

The IAAF's seven-man court of appeal yesterday up-

held Skah's protest after a 20-minute meeting. It examined an American television film of the race, in which Boutayeb, who had been lapped, ran alongside Skah and Chelimo for about 1,000 metres. IAAF sources said that Skah appeared to be gesturing to his compatriot to leave them alone. On the final lap, Skah outstripped the Kenyan.

The court of appeal, whose verdict is final, looked carefully at regulation 143 (2), which specifically prohibits "pacing in races by persons not participating in the race, by runners or walkers lapped or about to be lapped".

Lahcen Samarine, the Moroccan technical director, said: "I do not see how Hammou told me that he did not want to be lapped in an Olympic final and that was why he ran alongside them. He is a runner of distinction and one can understand his gesture."

"Certainly, if he had known that this reaction of pride was going to lead to the disqualification of Khalid he would not say, as a bystander, it would not have affected Chelimo's concentration."

director for the Kenyans, said the team had accepted the decision. "But we will still write to the IAAF complaining about the conduct of the Moroccan."

According to John Bicorn, the former British long-distance runner who is now Chelimo's manager, losing the gold medal will cost him \$500,000 over the next four years. Bicorn said there was no way that Skah was not complicit. "He gestured and talked to Boutayeb. Can you say, as a bystander, it would not have affected Chelimo's concentration?"

Frank Dick, who is president of the European Coaches' Association and, as a British official, is less subjective, expressed concern at the IAAF decision, saying: "In terms of fair conduct is in jeopardy". He added: "You only have to think what will happen if he put a 'hatchet man' there."

Certainly, the prevailing feeling among people who are not involved in the controversy is that the rules are inadequately worded and must be clarified by the world body.

David Miller, page 25

### 800 metres title beckons for Briton

## Robb prepared to succeed where Coe failed

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN BARCELONA

IT IS perhaps going beyond all reasonable speculation to suggest that Curtis Robb might have a chance of winning the Olympic 800 metres title here tonight. So let him speculate for me: "It's wide open and I think I've got a chance."

There is no one like a father for having faith in a son, but even Alex Robb, Curtis's dad, did not imagine anything such as this could happen so soon. Three years ago he laid a £200 bet, worth £100,000 if it came up, that his son, then aged 17, would win an Olympic gold medal. In 1996,

tonight Robb will try to succeed four years ahead of time; and try to win where even that most accomplished of all British athletes, Sebastian Coe, failed. Curtis Robb, Olympic 800 metres champion, surely not? Not yet, anyway.

But Robb wants to take this dream ride all the way. He started the season as an outstanding junior but many have fallen into the chasm while crossing the bridge to senior pastures. Robb did not even win the World Student Games title last year and look where he is now after a season



Syringe protest, page 1  
Simon Barnes, page 14  
Hockey defeat, page 24  
Results, page 25

in which he has won the United Kingdom and AAA senior titles.

Following the lead of Roger Black, Robb has put down his medical studies to work at his athletics. But, unlike Black, he regards the position as temporary and wants to resume later in the year. "If the day came when I had to choose, it would have to be medicine," he said. "Saving lives is more important to me than winning medals."

For any survivor of the Hillsborough tragedy, life means that little bit more. Robb was in the Leppings Lane end at the FA Cup semi-final of 1989, when 95 people died. Not his first brush with death, either. Aged two, suffering meningitis, his heart stopped beating for two

minutes.

Two minutes. Longer than it will take Robb this evening to circle two laps of the track. Examining the factors which tend to matter on such occasions — form, fastest times and senior championship record — Robb is down in bottom place with the Italian, Andrea Benvenuti, who at 22 is the nearest to Robb's age. All the others have been around for a while.

The favourite is William Tami, of Kenya, who can be banked on to go under 1min 44sec, given a good early pace. With Johnny Gray, of the United States, in the field a fast early lap, close to 50sec, is almost guaranteed.

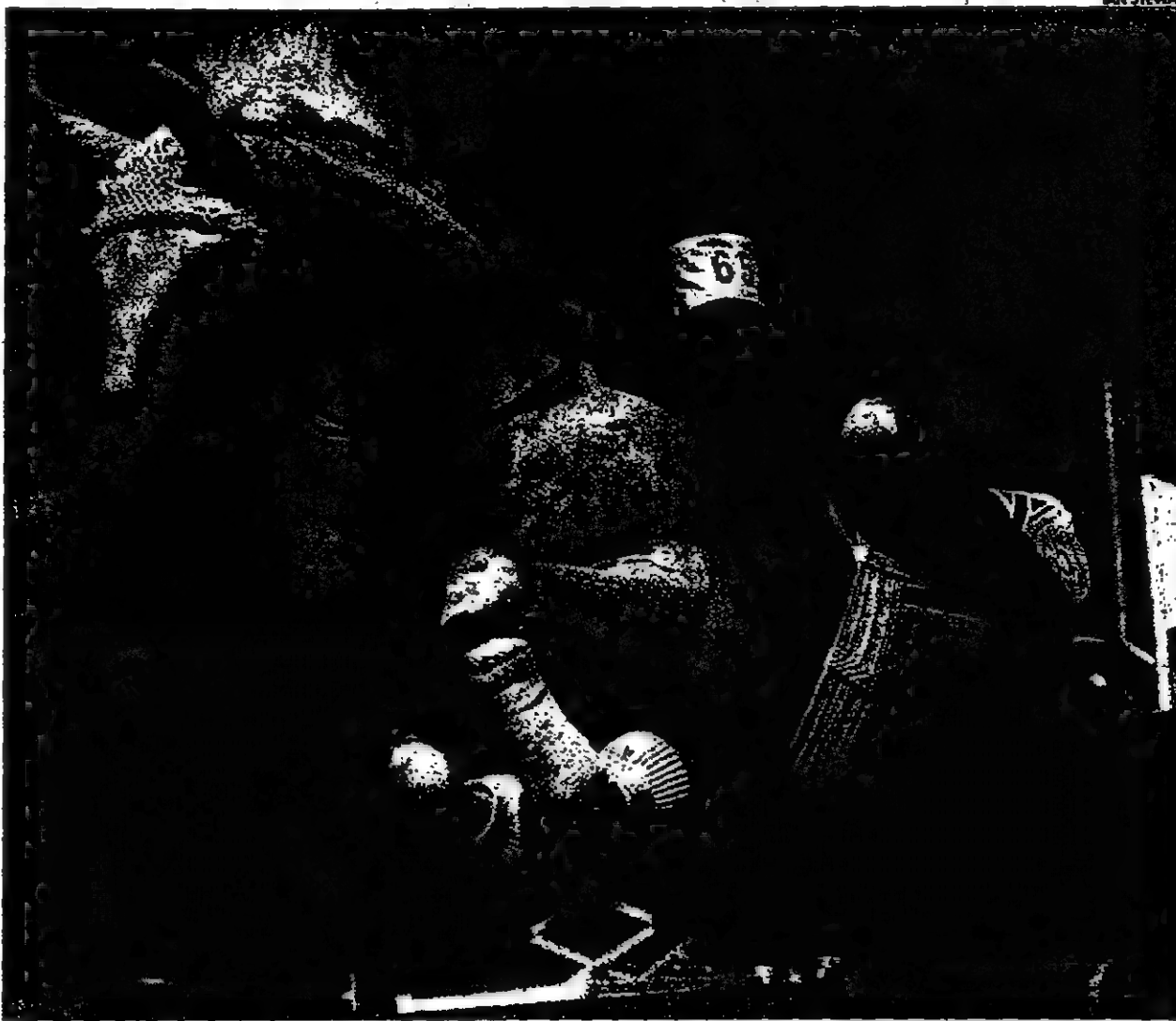
At the age of 32, Gray forms a link between Britain past and present. He ran in the 1984 Olympic final against Coe and Steve Ovett and in 1988 against Peter Elliott. Now Robb has come along. "Who is this guy?" he said.

Gray did not win a medal in either final but this year set a United States record of 1min 42.80sec in the Olympic trial. That day he ran from the front and is unlikely to alter his game plan. By contrast, his compatriot, Mark Everett, has a devastating, if ungainly finish: watch for him coming off the bend from way back.

The other big gun is Jose Luis Barbosa, of Brazil, sixth in Seoul. But, when you add it all up, this is hardly a vintage final and Robb may never have a better chance. "A lot of people can win it but they have got to get past me to do that," he said.

Robb's fellow British former European junior champion, David Grindley, is considered by some to have greater potential at 800 metres than at 400 metres and may one day find himself out there with Robb. But today the greatest moment of his 19-year life comes in the one lap. His appearance in the final is more of a surprise than Robb's.

Grindley set a British record of 44.47sec in his semi-final on Monday, a welcome sight given the elimination of Roger Black and Derek Redmond. If the occasion does not beat him, and he can take off a few hundredths more, he might finish fifth or sixth. But a medal may not be within his reach. Quincy Watts, of the United States, is the strong favourite.



Up and over: John Whitaker, of Britain, guides Milton to a clear round in the team show jumping yesterday

## Gunnell nears her biggest hurdle

FROM DAVID POWELL

THE British men's team captain, Linford Christie, led by example: now it is the turn of the women's team leader, Sally Gunnell. She will be running for a gold medal, and to improve her video library, when she lines up in the final of the 400 metres hurdles this evening.

Gunnell, aged 26, has a good fighting chance of becoming Britain's first woman track gold medal-winner since Ann Packer in 1964. "I would like to think I have as much chance as anybody," she said.

Robb's fellow British former European junior champion, David Grindley, is considered by some to have greater potential at 800 metres than at 400 metres and may one day find himself out there with Robb. But today the greatest moment of his 19-year life comes in the one lap. His appearance in the final is more of a surprise than Robb's.

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before her first round. After two rounds, nothing has changed.

Gunnell was the fastest qualifier from the semi-finals on Monday, running her quickest time of the season, 53.78sec. She did so without being pressed. Her two most likely challengers, Natalya Ledovskaya and Sandra Farmer-Patrick, were in the other semi-final.

After finishing second in the world championship in Tokyo last year, Gunnell watched the video of her race only once. "I want to forget about it," she said. "It will be a different

matter if she wins tonight."

One should read little into the fact that Ledovskaya, the world champion from Minsk, was third in the other semi-final, almost a second slower than Gunnell. Or that she has not broken 54 seconds this season. Knowing Ledovskaya, Gunnell said last week: she would scrape through the rounds and peak on the big day.

Make no mistake. Ledovskaya is the favourite, with Gunnell and Farmer-Patrick, of the United States, next in the queue. "There are really five or six of us who

could win," Gunnell said. Count in that number, Margarita Ponomareva and Vera Ordina, of the Unified Team, and Janeene Vickers, of the United States.

After the hurdles have had their final, the 400 metres flat runners have theirs. A surprise appearance is being made by Phyllis Smith, whose 50.40sec in the semi-finals has been bettered among British women only by Kathy Cook. Marie-Jose Perot, of France, is the title favourite, with Olga Bryzgina, of the Unified Team, her likely closest challenger.

## Smith forced to settle for bronze berth

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN BARCELONA

LAWRIE Smith and his crew of Rob Cruikshank and Ossie Stewart won the bronze medal in the Soling keelboat class yesterday. The trio, who had earlier stumbled in their semi-final against the United States skippered by Kevin Mahaney, triumphed 2-1 over Jochem Schumann, of Germany, to take third place.

The gold medal went deservedly to Jesper Bank, of Denmark, who beat Mahaney 2-0 in the final. Bank, who injured his left leg two months ago and was still in a wheelchair last week, has sailed the

entire 15-race regatta with his leg supported by a knee brace.

Smith and his crew can be commended for winning their bronze, the solitary British sailing medal picked up at the Games. But the British match-race champion must rue his decision, taken last year, to shun many of the grade one match race competitions. Had he not done so, then he would more likely be handling gold right now.

Smith is a first rate yachtsman and he had a crew to match his skills. All that the two-time America's Cup skip-

per lacked was match-race practice at the same level.

He withdrew from the match-race finals at the Soling world championship, and the French pre-Olympic regatta at Hyeres, saying that he did not want to reach rivals anything about his own tactics.

Instead, they practised privately against Eddie Warden-Owen, Andy Beadsworth and Ian Southworth, but this jousting could never replicate the pressures of racing head-to-head in active competition.

In their first race against Mahaney, the British crew

took the wrong side of the course and dropped behind six lengths in as many minutes. In the second heat, Smith allowed Mahaney to take a controlling position within a minute of the start and began a length behind, which the American was never likely to relinquish.

From that point on, the bronze medal became Smith's salvation and, though he lost the second leg of his best-of-three contest with Schumann, he won their final nerve-racking encounter by little less than a boat length.

## Games bring a sense of unity to Koreans

SPORT has often been used by politicians for nefarious ends; sometimes sport itself has created or increased antagonisms between nations. At last comes a heart-warming example of sport actually fulfilling the Olympic ideals and bringing people together.

Even more unlikely, the people in question are the North and South Koreans, who are still theoretically at war. The performances of the North Korean athletes have been cheered by the South Korean spectators, and now talks are planned in September for closer links, including a joint team to take part in the 1994 Asian games, following the success of a joint table tennis team in the 1991 world championships in Chi-

ba, which broke the Chinese domination of the sport.

"The situation in our country depends absolutely on the progress of the political talks," Chang Ung, secretary general of the North Korean Olympic Committee, said. "It is very difficult to separate sport from politics, but the unified team in Cuba proved that players understood each other immediately. I felt that although we had been separated for nearly 50 years, there were only minor changes in our national character because our nation has a 5,000 year history."

### Steroid haven

And now a drug story with a difference — the athletes who have to take steroids. A week

after the 1992 Olympics end in Barcelona, the European Transplant games begin in Eindhoven, Holland. All the competitors in track and field, golf, volleyball, swimming and table tennis have had heart or lung transplants, and have to take steroids as an anti-rejection agent.

Cuba against the United States is more than just a baseball match. Last night's semi-final was deemed important enough in Havana for the authorities to suspend electricity cuts so that followers could watch live television.

coverage. But the game itself is as important in Cuba as it is in the United States. "Even if we win ten gold medals in other sports, it will be as though we had won nothing if we don't win the baseball gold," one Cuban journalist said.

### Wrong track

The Games have been financially rewarding for Barcelona, but one group has been less than enamoured with the whole affair — Barcelona's betting industry, and in particular the dog racing fraternity. Turnover at the greyhound stadium at the foot of Montjuic hill — built, ironically, by Juan Antonio Samaranch 50 years ago — has dropped by 15 per cent

since the Games began. The track manager blames street closures to accommodate the Games. At least his track has not suffered as badly as one of his erstwhile rivals, whose site is now the Olympic basketball hall.

### Missionary zeal

The United States "Dream Team" continues to provide our quota of the day. Since whacking a smaller Angolan basketball player, Charles Barkley, the Phoenix Suns power forward, has been cast as the "heavy", a role he is relishing. Barkley's reception from the crowd: "I couldn't care less," Barkley said. "I'm here to kill 'em and let God sort 'em out later."

## Holland gain historic gold

FROM JENNY MACARTHEUR  
IN BARCELONA

HOLLAND, the reigning European champions, won their first Olympic show jumping team gold medal after an exhilarating competition yesterday. It was not decided until their last rider had gone and that rider, Jos Lansink, on Egano, achieved a double clear round to secure the gold in style.

Austria, for whom Thomas Frühmann also had a double clear on Genos, rose magnificently to the occasion to take the silver medal — their first Olympic show jumping medal.

France, who had been disputing the gold medal with Holland, were relegated to the bronze position after an untypical 12 faults from their last rider, Eric Navet, the world and European champion, on Quino de Bausay, in the final round.

Britain, like the event team, had come to Barcelona with high hopes of winning gold but finished seventh. The team got off to the worst possible start over the 14-fence course when Nick Skelton was eliminated at the last fence — an upright in the middle of 14-foot stretch of water.

Skelton's Doller Girl has never been known to refuse in her long career and was clear until the fence. Spying the water, she dug her toes in and refused to have anything to do with it. At the time, 8.45m, the bright sun made the water look like a gaping black hole.

Tim Grubb, Britain's second rider, collected eight faults on Denizen and, with the Dutch, Austrians, Belgians and French all forging ahead of Britain, it was left to the Whitaker brothers to put Britain back in contention.

Michael had just four faults on Monsanta and John had a superb clear round, lifting Britain into joint fifth place at the halfway stage.

In the second round, Skelton cleared the last fence but had eight faults. Grubb collected eight again, Michael Whitaker hit the first part of the treble to finish on four and John Whitaker, on Milton, had a foot in the water.

## Terry adds to medal collection

SIMON TERRY, aged 18, won a second successive archery bronze medal yesterday, adding to the individual medal he gained on Monday, as Britain's men finished third in the 70 metres team competition. The archer, from Sleaford, Lincolnshire, was joined by Steven Hallard and Richard Priestman, who repeated their Seoul achievement of four years ago.

Britain beat France, 233-231, in the bronze medal shoot-off after being narrowly eliminated in the semi-finals, 236-234, by Spain, who went on to beat Finland for gold.

The British team led 81-76 after the first nine and, though France won two back in the second nine and another in the third sequence, Britain held on to win.

Earlier, in the women's 70 metres team competition, Joanne Edens, of Coventry, Sylvia Harris, of Stoke-on-Trent, and Alison Williams, from Shropshire, lost to Sweden, 239-229, in the first round. The gold medal eventually went to South Korea.

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**WOMEN p5**  
**Why Gail**  
**Brewer-**  
**Giorgio knows**  
**that Elvis lives**

# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1992

**HOMES p7**  
**Rachel Kelly**  
**on homes that**  
**grow old**  
**with you**



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**RIEF**  
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## How we wish that you were all here

**Peter Barnard thinks the West Country's summertime blues could mark the beginning of better British holidays**

**T**he Olympic summer trek southwest has as its last two laps 80 miles of the M5 ending at Exeter and then 40 miles of the A38, which crosses into Cornwall near Plymouth. Along the route, the signs say "Welcome to Devon" and "Welcome to Cornwall". Nobody has yet added "for sale" to either, but to do so would be only a small exaggeration.

Behind the headline figures of a 25 per cent drop in tourist business around the country, there is in the South West a much bigger story. There are now so many hotels and guest houses on the market in Devon and Cornwall that you might as well go to a receiver as an estate agent to buy such a business.

Ask how many hotels are for sale in Torbay, Devon's premier resort, and the reply "all of them" is not entirely a common local joke. Go to Newquay, Cornwall's largest resort, in search of a private home and you may be advised that buying a small hotel and converting it could be cheaper.

In Torbay last week I was offered bargains which seemed so startling that I had to make a local receiver repeat the figures, twice: a hotel with more than 40 bedrooms in full running order, priced at only £250,000. And there are plenty more where that came from.

The problem is only partly that tourists numbers have fallen. If putative tourists have no money, they can always stay at home or pitch a tent. But a couple who paid £800,000 for a 40-bed hotel a decade or more ago will, often, have borrowed at least half of the capital. Now, many of them cannot pay it back. So they are forced to sell.

As we know from a series of corporate calamities, banks are often no better than surveyors at spotting the one distinguishing feature of an otherwise solid looking building: the writing on the wall. The writing has been on the wall of hotels and guest houses for several years but now, suddenly, everyone can read. In the uncertain meteorological climate of the South West, the old joke is singularly appropriate: banks lend you an umbrella when the sun is out and ask for it back in the rain.

Yet behind the gloom there are indications of a brighter future, one in which vast over-growth has been brutally expunged by recession, a future with a slimmer, more sophis-

ticated industry. Finding precise figures is tricky, because hotels do not normally put up "for sale" signs (and for business) and many are not formally in the hands of agents. But reliable estimates have it that of the 800 to 1,000 hotels and guest houses in Torbay, at least 300 are for sale. Another 100 are said to be for sale in Newquay. In the small and picturesque south Cornish fishing town of Mevagissey, at least nine — which is to say, most — hotels and guest houses are open to offers.

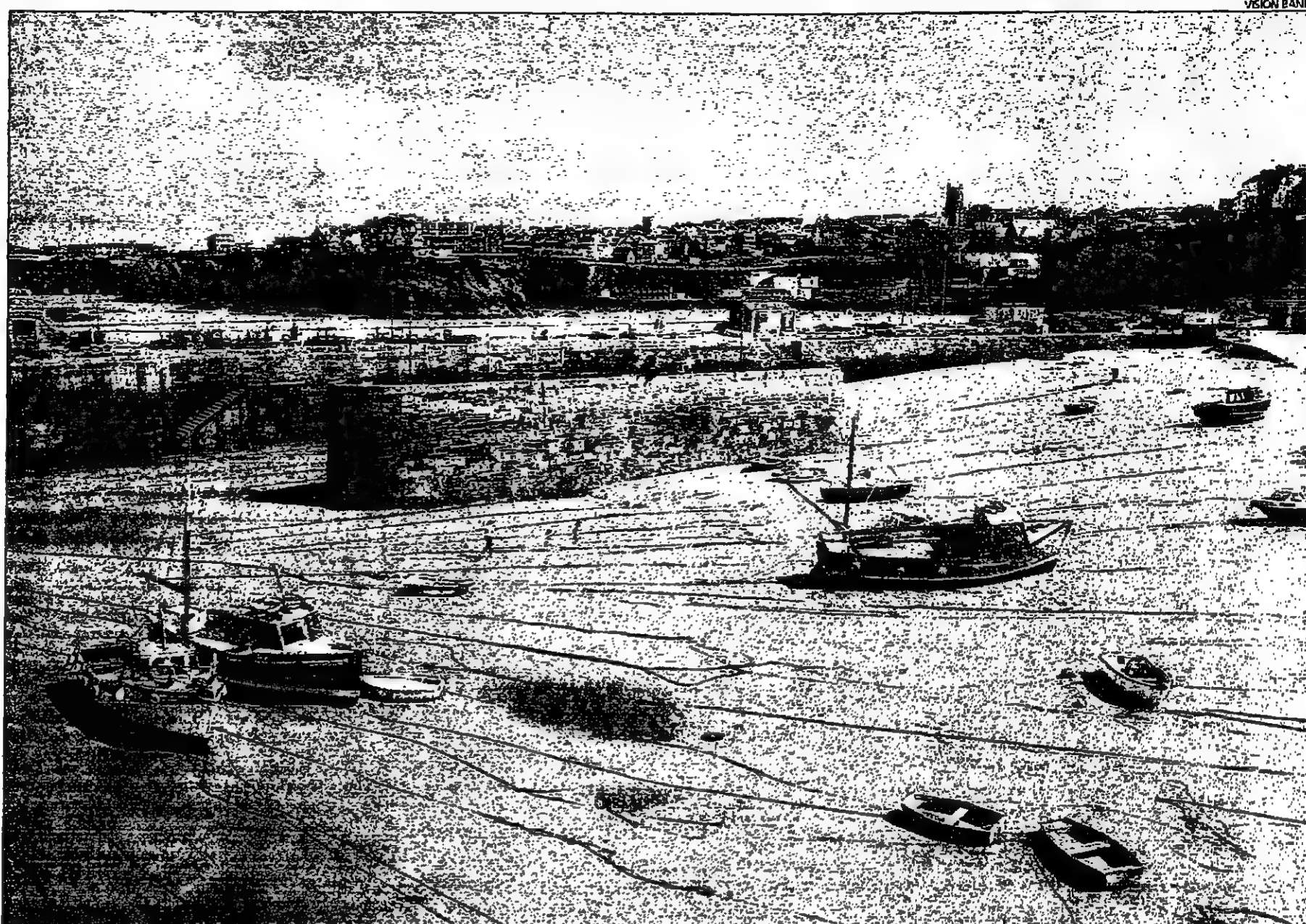
Asking a desperate hotelier to talk on the record about his plight in the middle of the holiday season is like asking Santa Claus to admit that he is snowed-in on Christmas eve. As with a plane crash, only the survivors are talking.

One of the survivors is Patrick Grist, 55, a former merchant seaman who bought the Headlands Hotel at Mevagissey seven years ago. His hotel is one of the best in the area, it offers excellent food (at £11 for a five-course dinner) and half-board is a maximum of £231 a week peak season. Most of Mr Grist's guests either come back year after year or are recommended by people who do.

**H**e says: "It has been hard but we survive. The holidaymakers who have all but disappeared are the young couples, they are clearly feeling the pinch. But the hoteliers who have suffered, some to the extent of going out of business, are ones who simply borrowed too much. Some of these people have been their own worst enemy. We had a local hotel that offered two nights for the price of one through a scheme in a newspaper and they did good business for a while, but now they're empty. You can cut prices too much. People get a half-price deal at a hotel but instead of coming back next time they go looking for a half-price deal somewhere else."

Mr Grist believes that value matters more than price. Flexibility is part of value: offering good food, giving people, for example, Thursday-to-Thursday stays rather than insisting on the standard Saturday changeover, offering some sort of in-house entertainment... these are among the factors that can make the difference between survival and calamity.

The value-against-cheapness argument is a clue to one of the key



The sands run out in the West Country: even Newquay, Cornwall's largest resort, is said to have up to 100 hotels and guest houses offered for sale

underlying problems in places such as Mevagissey and Newquay. I was born in Cornwall and brought up across the Devon border in Plymouth. For me, Cornwall is a magical kingdom and for many years Mevagissey was a favourite haunt. Last week I found it a changed place. In search of business, Mevagissey has plunged down-market, into the very sector where money is tightest. "Meva" is still picturesque, but the harbour front is now a mish-mash of tourist shops and burger joints, cheap frills tucked like a pelmet over a pair of fine curtains.

Mevagissey used to be a place people visited on day trips from the larger resorts in which they stayed. Once Mevagissey started to be a resort in its own right, the resort in being a resort means being self-contained and self-contained means adding on the sort of entertainment that, by definition, detracts from quaintness, which in marketing jargon was Mevagissey's unique selling point. On a larger scale, Newquay is the same: the old elegance has all but disappeared to be replaced by a sprawl of surf shops and gaudy amusement arcades.

Jack Arthur stands on the lifeboat slipway at Mevagissey, in the circumstances a symbolic location. He has a weather-beaten face and an all-weather smile, the sort you might put on a postcard. If you did, interestingly, the postcard will be selling at a cut price of 15p, or four for 40p, prices that have not gone up for two years. Nor has the cost of

renting a little motor boat (£7 an hour) from Mr Arthur, an alert man of 78 years with a finger in several pies: boat hire, the town's model railway, half a dozen holiday cottages and flats.

Mr Arthur considered the state of the tourist industry. "I started out here in 1948," he said, "renting out boats like these for 2s/6d an hour. The post-war boom was in sight then and in the 1950s Mevagissey had a golden era."

"But all that has changed now. This year is pretty bad, in fact I've stopped the holiday letting and now we let year round, mostly to elderly people. It's not big money but at least it's steady, whereas with holiday letting you can never tell if anyone will come."

Often they do not. Nor is Mevagissey much helped by the trim but forlorn looking cottages that line the western side of the harbour, mostly second homes. These are occupied by the owner for perhaps two weeks a year and let out at other times of the summer. But this business, too, has been hit hard. A stroll past these cottages reveals more closed shutters than open windows.

What is to be done? I had thought that cheap foreign holidays were an important part of the problem, but they are only a symptom. If you shop around, you can get a fortnight in Spain as cheaply as a fortnight in Cornwall, especially as the former's guaranteed sun means you do not have to build in the costs of indoor entertainment. But presumably the

## The boom times of the 1960s and 1970s could not last — even the survivors will have to change

missing young couples can no more afford a holiday in Spain than in Cornwall.

The heart of the problem is supply and demand. Hindsight makes it easy to see that the boom times of the 1960s and 1970s could not possibly last. A boom is temporary but a debt is not and when a boom goes bust a debt has nothing to feed on. So the shake-out is under way, a squeezing of the people who borrowed too much and came to the business with too little knowledge. Even the survivors will have to change, offering more weekend and four-day breaks to people taking their main holidays elsewhere.

Terry Nickels is a partner in Bishop Fleming Accountants, based in Torquay and covering the whole of Devon and Cornwall. Mr Nickels specialises in hotels and is handling a number as receiver. He says: "Usually what happens is that whoever lent the money for a hotel has simply said 'enough is enough'."

The banks are saying 'you promised us the earth at the start of season but you haven't delivered, we want our money'.

"When you look into these business failures you often find that two factors have destroyed them: they borrowed too much and they took no advice. They thought that if they opened the doors and did a bit of advertising, people would come. But often they have advertised in the wrong places. They haven't taken advice because that costs money and they think they can manage alone."

"Obviously some good people have suffered, but I think most of them are in the category I described. Bad management is at the top of our list of reasons for a failed hotel business. But failure isn't universal. It's the middle sized and big places, in other words the big debts, that have brought people down. Many smaller places are doing reasonably well."

**M**r Nickels believes that forced sales through receivership and liquidations will, indeed, shake-out the market. If so, Cornwall, still the most popular UK tourist destination, will recover the one industry it desperately needs as fishing and farming decline and tin mining vanishes altogether.

After all, it is a very beautiful place and these days is a far cry from the trip undertaken by Mrs Celia Fienes in 1698, who found crossing the River Tamar hard

enough: "I was at least an hour in going over, about a mile," she wrote later. "And notwithstanding there were five men rowing, and I set my men to row also, I do believe we made not a step of way for almost a quarter of an hour. But, blessed be to God, I came safely over at last, although those ferry boats are so wet that I never fail to catch cold in them, as I did this day."

The ferries are dry now and carry cars. There is also a three-lane bridge. When Mrs Fienes reached St Austell, which is five miles from Mevagissey, she stayed in a small guest house and her landlady brought her "one of the west country tarts which was the most acceptable entertainment that could be made real."

So perhaps Cornwall's future is in its past: small scale and with personal service. Simpler, smaller pleasures may be the county's salvation, but the route back to a viable industry is as stony as the one Mrs Fienes discovered, and just as long. For indebted hoteliers, it is a race against time; long-term is no longer a phrase that is available to them. The problem, as the economist John Maynard Keynes observed, is that "in the long run we are all dead."

**TOMORROW**  
**Hollywood in green**  
**mode: Geoff Brown**  
**reviews Fern Gully**

## But soft! Methinks another basil dies

**SINGLE LIFE: Lynne Truss on being her neighbour's keeper**

**O**ne of the more obvious advantages of childlessness is that you never have to do the business with the school hamster. We all know the syndrome: it starts with "Can we have Raffles at home this weekend?" and ends when after 48 hours of love and attention — feeding, watering and changing straw — the motley head-eyed ingrate suddenly kicks the bucket on Sunday night when all the pet shops are shut. Stiff-legged on the floor of his hutch, the hamster peers through its straw with a great eternal question in its thinking gaze. It appears to be thinking, "Get out of that. You can't, can you?"

But unfortunately single life does bring its own version of the Death of Raffles routine. Damn. Since you tend not to take holidays at peak times (such as the first week in August), you can find yourself cheerfully agreeing to be pet-servicer, plant-waterer and fish-food-sprinkler for such a large number of lucky neighbouring holiday-makers that you would certainly bend under the burden of

responsibility if the weight of all the flipping door-keys didn't stagger you first. Currently my key-ring is so heavy with other people's Chubb's, Banhams and Ingersolls that I am permanently reminded of the great clanking whistling dragged around by Marley's Ghost.

I am quite happy to do it besides, they do the same for me. I am just terrified that something will die, like Raffles, and break somebody's heart. Take the Herbs. For the past fortnight I have tended some little potted herbs, which evidently blossomed and thrived until I came along, but have subsequently withered on the stalk, and are now succumbing in heaps. Like a herbaceous equivalent of the last act of *Hamlet*. Each time I pop my head around the door, a basil plant whispers "I die" or "The rest is silence" and collapses; it is ghastly. To my returning friend it will look as though Agent Orange has swept

through her kitchen on a pale horse. Twice a day I creep in, ostensibly to do more hopeful watering, but mainly to confront the horror and measure the devastation. I shall never be able to look a plate of pesto in the face again.

Latch-key duty is one of those rare things in life (operating the red button in a nuclear silo is another) where the sense of onerous responsibility is out of all proportion to the teeny effort required. Perhaps that's why it worries me so much. Feeding fish takes precisely 15 seconds, but the fear of forgetting such a tiny thing gives me sleepless nights.

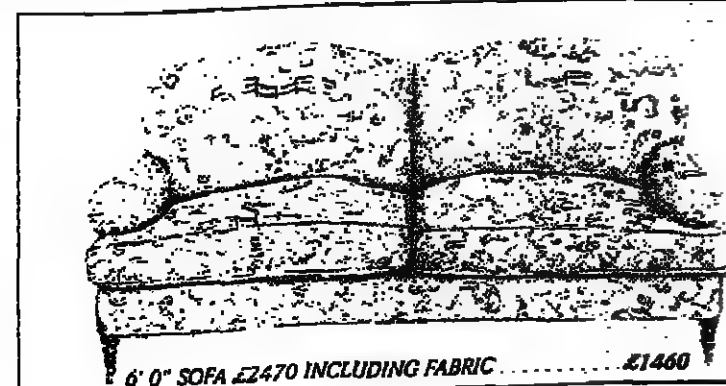
Also, I feel awkward letting myself in to someone's house. I don't look around, I don't breathe, and the sound of my own voice ("Hello fishes, ha ha, still alive?")



gives me the creeps. The whole operation being so brief and automatic, I assume at midnight I must have got it all mixed up. Perhaps I sprinkled fish-food on the curtains. Perhaps I watered the cat.

Of course, some people must do it differently. Keys give them the run of the place, and they love it. They

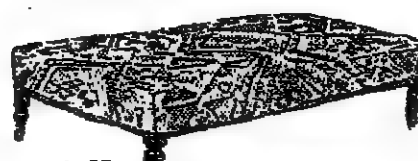
let themselves in, light a cigarette, put the kettle on, and start rummaging in your sock-drawer for interesting ticket-stubs, so that they can stardle you a week later by asking "How was *Night of the Igwana*, by the way?" (leaving you to guess their source of information). Obviously this is the sort of fish-food sprinkler to avoid, but sometimes you don't recognise them until it is too late. Once, a friend of mine asked a chronically inquisitive chap actually to reside in her flat for a week while she took a holiday; and rashly ignored the warning signals when, immediately on hand-over, he whipped open cupboards and drawers in the manner of a professional burglar, saying "Anywhere you don't want me to look?" and "Oh how very interesting. Fond of pink."



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**RICHARD III:** Shakespeare's history play is given a new production by Sam Mendes for the Royal Shakespeare Company, with Simon Russell Beale in the leading role. After his Stratford-upon-Avon production, Mendes is now in London to produce the play at the Swan Theatre. The production is planned to tour the regions despite the company's failure to find a sponsor.

**The Other Place:** Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 235623), previews, tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, opens Tues, 7pm.

**PORCELAINE:** Loveless and murder in a domestic setting of London. Alan Llan's powerful staging of the adaptation of a 19th-century Chinese youth. Opening night.

**Theatre Upstairs:** Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 2554), tonight, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat, Sat, 3.30pm.

**THE THREE MUSKETEERS:** Final UK performances of a tremendously funny version of the timeless adventure. Every child is bound to be captivated by the three dashing heroes.

**Paradise:** A new production by the Parthenon Theatre, London (071-938 8800), tonight, Sat, 8pm.

**BBC PROMS 92:** The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under the baton of conductor John Neschling. The first of two from the concert, both with an emphasis on the music of eastern Europe, the orchestra plays Beethoven's Symphony No. 4, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 4, and Szymanowski's Violin Concerto in D, with the young Greek violinist, Katerina Katsouli.

Tonight's late-night concert is given by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. The programme comprises Chopin's Andante spianato and Grande Polonaise, Mozart's Symphony No. 39 in E-flat major, K263, Beethoven's Pastoral, and Kodály's Dance of Galamb.

**Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-823 9998), 7pm and 10pm.**

**ASBESTOS FRIENDS:** Asbestos's bleak yet comic study of modern marriage: subtle, dramatic, and deftly acted (Gary Bond, Sue Blake, Cheryl Mason).

**Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (071-741 2511), Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat, Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.**

**AS YOU LIKE IT:** Some nice touches emanate the love stories in Anna Ankr's straightforward production. Open Air, Regents Park, NW1 (071-438 2051), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, mat today, 2.30pm, 10pm.

**DEATH AND THE MAIDEN:** Anal Doran's scathing psychological drama on the killing for revenge. Cardinale, James, and David Byrne. Paul Freeman plays their final week. Duke of York's, 21 Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-636 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.

**GRAND HOTEL:** Musical barbers sugar Berlin in the Twenties. Simon, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-560 9562), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm, 10pm.

**FROM A JACK TO A KID:** Wit and style version of Macaulay's comic to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with jokes. Ambassadors, West Street, London WC2 (071-636 6111), Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 3pm and 8pm, 12pm.

**THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III:** Royal Madness is a very fine line as the stricken king in Alan Bennett's intriguing, slightly puzzling play. National (Lyric), South Bank, SE1 (071-926 2522), tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm, 10pm.

**A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM:** Acted in a pool of mud, Robert Lapage's production is long and murky but packed with jokes. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-926 2522), tonight, Sat, 7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm, 10pm.

**WINDY CITY:** Musical comedy. Gerald Harper and William Gunt play comic writers who fall out and pit their wit against each other. Royal National Theatre, Strand, WC2 (071-436 0881).

**BATMAN RETURNS (12):** Quirky but no-humour sequel. Best when the spotlight falls on Michael Pfeiffer's electrifying Catwoman. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, director, Tim Burton. Burbank (071-438 8801), Camden Parkway (071-727 7034), Empire (071-457 9999), MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772), MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-370 2636), UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**NIGHT ON EARTH (15):** Five rag-trick encounters in the city of New York. Unseen but amusing. Michael Keaton, Danny DeVito, director, Tim Burton. Burbank (071-438 8801), Camden Parkway (071-727 7034), Empire (071-457 9999), MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772), MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-370 2636), UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**THE BUTCHER'S WIFE (12):** Ach, why any about a New York butcher's wife.

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

**HOLLAND PARK:** The summer season of opera in Holland Park continues with Regency Opera's stagings of La Bohème (tonight, 7.30pm) and Albert Herring (tomorrow, Fri, 7.30pm). The season runs until August 22.

**Holland Park Theatre, Holland Park, London W6 (071-602 7858).**

**ROSE ENGLISH:** Following the live art show by Belgian avant-garde director Jan Fabre, the South Bank presents an intelligently eccentric performance artist Rose English in the British premiere of her latest piece My Mathematics.

The piece comes complete with a live band, an accordion and a live band. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-636 8891), 7.45pm.

**MEDICAN PAINTED BOOKS:** Through the impact of Europe on the Americas, some artistic traditions continued long after Cortez. Owing to systematic destruction by Spanish rulers, very few pre-Columbian painted books remain.

—only about 16 texts. But the form of book, which was primarily mnemonic, enabling a "reader" to deliver a text, with great accuracy from the pictures, survived into colonial days. Some of the most are in the country, rarely seen because of their fragility. The British Museum show maps, pre- and post-conquest, and seems like an interestingly offbeat way to mark Columbus Year.

**British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-636 1535), Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, mat, Sun, 12pm.**

**COURT COSTUME '92:** Kensington Palace already has an permanent display a series of court outfits from 1700 in.

## THEATRE GUIDE

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment**

House full, reasonably priced, seats available.

**99871, Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 3.30pm, Sat, 3.30pm, 12pm.**

**PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME!** Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his coming home. Cardinale, James, and David Byrne. Paul Freeman plays their final week. Duke of York's, 21 Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-636 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.

**SHADES:** Faintly comic but between her child, mum and married in Sherman Macdonald's disconcerting new play, only sporadically affecting. Allway, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-636 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.

**SEVEN DEGREES OF SEPARATION:** John Guare's free play on human dependence transfers to the West End. Stockard Channing recaptures her role as the high New Yorker transplanted by a black cat.

**Comedy, Ranton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.**

**A SLIP OF THE TONGUE:** A wistful John Malkovich in a lightweight drama that seems to be a light-hearted disavowal of getting girls into bed. Cardinale, James, and David Byrne. Paul Freeman plays their final week. Duke of York's, 21 Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-636 5122), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.

**SOMEONE WHO WILL WATCH OVER ME:** Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, Hugh Quarshie and Michael Gambon as three men in Frank McGuinness's new play. Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, 5pm, Sat, 4pm, 12pm.

**THE SOUND OF MUSIC:** Mum, Nazis, squeaky-clean tons and drops of golden sun: a sweet holiday from the real world. With Liz Robertson and Christopher Cazenove.

## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (A) on releases across the country**

**clanvay wife (Demi Moore), partly** salvaged by bright lines and a general sense of humour. Director, Terry Hughes. MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-370 2636), UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

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## CURRENT

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## Bring them up and put them down

Mother Tongue  
Greenwich

IN SHE comes, into the south London living room, all big, smug smiles and tweedy condescension. Within two or three minutes she has denounced the capital's buses for getting in the way of her taxi, affably reproved her daughter for using the word "blatant", patronised her son-in-law's achievements as a television producer ("so terribly grown-up"), repeated the phrase "little man" several times, and implied that a mildly Bohemian terrace house in an unfashionable area is a rural sham. "One still has the feeling, how shall I put it, of camping here," she gurgles, beaming as her daughter's ego begins its long, slow collapse.

Alan Franks has certainly written a wonderful part for Prunella Scales, and, notwithstanding the odd, uncertain moment on opening night, she embraces it with the stately panache, the serene hero she has made her own. One moment her Dorothy might be a latter-day Lady Bracknell — "Shropshire is so non-near anywhere" — and the next she sounds like an Enid Blyton book for five-year-olds. Words such as "delishious" and "scrummy" tumble from her lips, as do references to a family circle that includes "Biff, Moisture, Zigger and all the Squirrel cousins". In a peculiarly English way, she dominates by belittling and controls by infantilising.

An intelligent, middle-aged daughter, which is what Gwen Taylor's Harriet seems to be, should be able to see through such manipulations. But as Franks knows, to see is not necessarily to cope. Indeed, to see may be to go half-mad with exasperation, regressing into childishness in the very attempt to assert the adult self. And that creates opportunities for comedy and for something beyond comedy: two challenges from which Franks and Richard Cottrell's cast do not flinch.

It is an amusing idea to confront Dorothy, driven from her own plush pad by a fire, with her daughter's feminist friends, and then to confront this sisterhood with one of Dorothy's gentleman callers. But I found it hard to believe that someone as shrewd as Taylor's Harriet would be impressed by anybody as boorish as Bernice Stegers's Lettie, an American Amazon spouting lumpy rhetoric from inside an outfit that combines flowery leggings with a purple vest and a red-and-white shirt. Nor would the upper-crust Dorothy, widow of a minor F.O. dignitary, be likely to fall for as blatant a phoney as Robert McBain's Gerald.

Without doubt Franks's satiric exuberance pushes some of his characters too far towards caricature, with an inevitable loss of plausibility. On the other hand, I enjoyed his comic incongruities, and, indeed, wished they would go on longer. Either way, I was not altogether ready for the shift in tone that occurs half way through. Were all his writing as subtle as the best already is (an indignant feminist cry of "your daughter is perfectly capable of speaking for herself" could have come from Bennett or Frayn), the revelations and rancour of the second half might be more moving and disturbing.

Yet Harriet's rage at the mother who self-righteously informs her of her husband's infidelities is strong stuff, and her revenge pretty formidable. Most Sudden Dorothy, who has just learned that her burnt-out house was uninsured, is being publicly embarrassed. Her dead husband's predilection for alcohol and outré sex went far further than family mythology allowed: or so it seems. And as her woes unfold, Scales blanches, vomits, collapses and then, with absolute logic, re-emerges in her smiling matriarchal imperturbability: a pointed end to what, all criss aside, is a lively play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Mother and daughter: Dorothy (Prunella Scales) and Harriet (Gwen Taylor) in *Mother Tongue*

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## RADIO REVIEW

## Sitting uncomfortably

doing a European tour, and losing one or more of its members by strange deaths in every capital it per-

forms in. The repertoire dwindles, the programmes are constantly having to be changed, the orchestra is before long no more than a wind and string section.

But the surviving instrumentalists never object, because the takings stay steady in each capital, and the fewer the players the more each of them gets. Greed, in fact, is only one of their vices, and all the rest are also on full show.

STEPHEN PETTIT

## PROMS: ALBERT HALL/RADIO 3

## An extended farewell and a belated welcome

(equally beguiling in Christine Messier's hands). Often, the more appealing music brings to mind specific models — Tippett in the opening tenor and Britten's *Abraham and Isaac* in the dialogue between God and Moses's soul. But these reminiscences seem the stronger precisely because the work lacks cohesion, for all the striding confidence of its fundamental ideas.

Nevertheless, Goehr has made the piece singable by accomplished amateurs, though even as excellent a professional group as the Monteverdi Choir will not find it easy. They tackled the music with discipline and enthusiasm, while the New London Chai-

lors' Choir passed the severe tests Goehr set them with astonishing confidence and accuracy. Nigel Robson was well cast as a beatific, noble Moses, re-

lishing the ceremonial movement, while Michael Chance, as God, dispensed terrible truth and loving wisdom with haunting authority. (He also asked Job's questions.) Both had earlier sung in Part One of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, a neat pairing.

John Eliot Gardiner, who conducted both works, obtained intensely concentrated performance from the Monteverdi Choir. They, and the English Baroque Soloists, seemed alive to every nuance of this colourful and dramatic sequence.

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## ENTERTAINMENTS

## ART GALLERIES

**"SOCIETY OF WILDLIFE ARTISTS"** (12) The Society of Wildlife Artists, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**"THE LONG DAY CLOSING (12)"** A film by Terence Davies. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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# Whodunit? The author, of course

Crime writer Derek Raymond reveals his real name and an extraordinary history, when questioned by Margaret Park

Robin Cook is emaciated in the way heavy drinkers often are. He sits alone at a small table in a Soho pub, looking frail, with the sleeves of his shirt rolled up high to expose thin, white arms, and a black beret jammed like a peaked cap onto the front of his head. It is 2pm, but Cook has not been up long. He writes at night. This morning he emerged from his current struggle with death and depravity — a novel he calls *Dead Man Upright* — at 7am, slept for four hours and then, as normal, set off for the "Coach".

To readers of crime fiction, Robin Cook is Derek Raymond, author of 11 exceptionally bloodthirsty novels. The BBC has just begun dramatising the four most recent, which will be turned into a drama series called *Dead at Night* for broadcast next year. It is hard to imagine how the stories will be made fit for screening. Cook writes with a stomach-churning exactness about murder, madness and mutilation. His stories are peopled with psychopaths. Unspeakable acts take place in the upstairs rooms of vice clubs. In his last book, *I was Dora Suarez*, the killer follows a detailed dismemberment by axe with a spot of self-mutilation which leaves a vital organ shredded to a pulp.

Clearly, this is not everyone's taste. At least one publisher refused to touch it. "I threw up all over his desk, apparently," says Cook, with evident glee. At 61 he speaks with the exaggerated vowels of wartime Eton, a complete contrast to his gap-toothed, dishevelled appearance.

Why would anyone want to write such horror? The answer, dropped obliquely into his conversation, is that Cook is writing about his own life. He admits he has been "in-

volved" with more than one murder, but declines to explain how. "That's what I've tried not to say in my memoirs," he says lightly, shaking another Gitane from his pocket.

The memoirs, entitled *Hidden Files*, in which he remembers very little about himself altogether, are published this month. The book is principally a dissertation on what he calls the "black novel", and apart from descriptions of a childhood marked by a mutual loathing between himself and his wealthy parents, reveals frustratingly little

**'He writes with a stomach-churning exactness about murder, madness and mutilation'**

about Cook's past. There are tantalising glimpses of an early life of crime, the scars financed by East End thugs and fronted by young drop-outs from Eton: the five wives (the last divorce recently completed); a first novel at the age of 31; the years in which he chose to be a farm labourer in France and Italy; and constant restlessness during 40 years spent in at least nine countries.

From the day he got his nanny, sacked by running away, Cook has been disliking, it seems, by pretty well everybody close to him. He reckons that, mentally at least, he dropped out of his silver-spoon existence at the age of about three. "I thought God, what awful cards have I drawn

here? I couldn't wait to get out of it. I've always been on the downward staircase watching everybody else on the upward one."

He may have stepped away from the physical trappings of his class but he has not shaken off the upper-middle-class belief that it is not quite right to talk about oneself. Cook prefers to believe it was a later training that made him cautious: "When you work for the underworld, you very soon learn to keep it buttoned," he says sternly, drawing a line sharply across his mouth.

This is an odd stance from which to write an autobiography. But Cook seems surprised at the criticism. "It's a book about writing," he says. "If you don't talk about writing there wouldn't be much to talk about. There would just be one boring anecdote after another."

The anecdotes he does allow himself include the fake property company in the Sixties: Cook was the nominal managing director. It was his job to persuade banks and members of the public to invest in housebuilding on the south coast. No houses were ever built. The money was collected weekly by his employers: East End gangsters in Rolls-Royces.

Later Cook got himself arrested after several paintings, apparently given to him by a friend to sell, disappeared in Amsterdam. He was jailed for 17 hours by police working shifts around him. It was an experience that still amuses him.

This part of his life is described to some extent in his first novel, *The Crust on its Uppers*, which is reissued this month. First published in 1962, the novel is written in a Fifties' street slang which is so peculiar to its time that the book contains a glossary.



Wearing his black beret like a peaked cap: Robin Cook, a.k.a. Derek Raymond, in a Soho pub

Much more of Cook, then, is in his novels than in his autobiography and he makes the violence of the former sound like a necessary catharsis. "What I'm doing, constantly, is trying to see how far I would be capable of doing such things myself," he says emphatically. "If I didn't think I was capable of something fairly considerable I wouldn't be writing like this, because the point of these books is to be as honest as you can."

Partly because of this un-broadcastable honesty, the BBC has bought the rights not to the novels but to the principal character in the later books, a manic-depressive detective sergeant who is never named.

Like Cook, his detective has a special knowledge of crime: his wife is in a mental asylum after murdering their child. Not surprisingly, the detective is an obsessive, a policeman with no interest in promotion or reward, with an urge to plunge into the minds of the killers he pursues and a loosening grasp of the difference between law and criminality in his own actions.

Perhaps Cook's affection-starved childhood was a little like the disturbed infancy that is supposed to produce the psychopathic killer? "Wasn't it," he agrees with some satisfaction, his large, sunken eyes widening. "And I think that's the link. The difference is I managed to

find my way out of it by other means, thank God."

Cook is less celebrated in Britain than in France, where he was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres last year. The French director Claude Chabrol is filming *How the Dead Live*, his ninth book, with Philippe Noiret in the leading role. "My readers are invariably people who are fascinated with the truth," he says, waving another Gitane. "My greatest fans are nearly always people who've done time in jail or led very difficult, dodgy, hard lives."

● *Hidden Files* is published on August 13 (Scribners, £14.99), and *The Crust on its Uppers* is reissued on August 27 (Scribners, £7.99)

## ARTS BRIEF

### Bucks for Buxton?

THE scandal of Buxton's decaying Crescent, highlighted on this page last week, may be moving towards a resolution. English Heritage has told the High Peak MP Charles Hendry that it will consider making a grant of £500,000 as a contribution to a scheme to save this architectural jewel — built by John Carr of York in 1784, and unoccupied for nearly a year.

English Heritage is collaborating with local authorities and the current owners of the former St Ann's Hotel (which once occupied most of the Crescent). But in a letter to Hendry, Jocelyn Stevens turned down a scheme to use the Crescent as English Heritage's national headquarters: he said it was too far from London. Hendry says that he is encouraged by the offer of help, even though it is not enough by itself to save the building in the immediate future. It is estimated that £2 million is needed to make the Crescent safe.

### Spike-like

YOU have seen Spike Lee the movie. Now you can wear Spike Lee the apparel. The combustible director of *Do the Right Thing*, who has already established the baseball cap as the essential uniform for young black film-makers, has now moved into retail clothing. One store opened at the weekend in Los Angeles, following several outlets in New York. Branches in London, San Francisco, Japan and Paris are under discussion. The stores, which are called "Spike's Joint", offer jeans, blazers, bomber jackets, and t-shirts imprinted with street-smart slogans.



Spike Lee: he is launching his own clothing company

### Last chance...

WITH the final week of the Royal Ballet's season (Covent Garden, 071-240 0666) come three major debuts in *Romeo and Juliet*: Alina Astasheva and Zoltan Solymosi as the doomed lovers tomorrow evening (repeating Saturday afternoon), and Bonnie Moore's first London Juliet, with Bruce Sansom as Romeo, tomorrow afternoon. Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhamedov complete the run on Saturday night. There are also two more performances of *La Bayadere* with Durante tonight and Fiona Chadwick on Friday.

## London Galleries: John Russell Taylor on an Indian painter who works in Britain

### Scenes from a multi-cultural life and times

Britain may have become a multi-cultural society in the last few years, but the various constituent cultures still maintain their individuality, mixing and matching without becoming homogenised. An artist such as Anish Kapoor can remain poised between West and East, taking what he needs from both cultures.

Shanti Panchal, whose one-man show at the Festival Hall forms part of the current South Bank "Spirit of the Earth" Festival, is definitely more Asian. But the fact that he has lived in Britain since he was a student has left its mark on his style and even his subject-matter.

The fusion of worlds in his work is highly individual. He began painting when he was a child in Gujarat, valued for his gifts in decorating village walls for high days and holidays. In 1978 he won a British Council scholarship and came to London to study at the Byam Shaw School, which has overseen many such encounters between Eastern experience and Western training.

The manner of painting that Panchal has evolved belongs fully to neither tradition: he paints in watercolours, on a large scale, and with a density recalling Edward Byrne, so that his glowing coloured works look at first glance much more like oils or pastels, while the final texture recalls that of a fresco.

The subjects of the paintings mostly refer to Panchal's youth in India, or the way that he returns to it still in dreams (though seldom, apparently,

in person). But there are also images which show him to be conscious of the various roles his compatriots play in British life: scenes of people working in tailor's shops which could be back in India or in the East End of London, or of traditional ceremonies which carry on the same regardless of local context.

The technique he has evolved to deal with this has overtones of certain kinds of Indian popular art, and is sometimes knowingly naive, subverting the profile art of Indian miniatures to his own uses. He likes to create a degree of removal in his subjects, to suppress most evidence of perspective so that the pictures become a patchwork of exquisitely subtle colours

which are almost flatly applied.

What makes a Panchal immediately recognisable, even across a crowded room at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition (where he is showing for the first time this year), is above all the quality of the colour. In it, the brilliant tints of Indian textiles, and even Indian foodstuffs, are reduced to exquisite harmonies, rich but subdued, as though the works are somehow illuminated from the inside.

The technique is peculiarly appropriate, given Panchal's preoccupation with memory, in that though his forms are quite clearcut, they merge into a pattern which seems to be

filtered through or veiled in a subjective view of the past.

Clearly there is little or nothing directly political about his art, and indeed he is the first to point out that he has been too long and deeply involved with Britain to retain any kind of crusading fervour about the misdeeds of the colonial past.

This degree of removal also, paradoxically, reduces the strangeness of the subject-matter. Panchal himself effortlessly bridges the two cultures and, seeming completely at home in both worlds, puts spectators at their ease.

The consequence is that his art comes over as deeply humane, a lesson in tranquillity from the artist's own philosophical calm. Even when signs of aggression do make an appearance in the paintings, they are neutralised and transfigured by the healing powers of art.

● Shanti Panchal's work is on show in the Foyer Galleries, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 071-928 3002 Daily, 10am-10pm, until August 16

## PHYSICAL THEATRE

### Tedious, puerile and in poor taste

Sweet Temptations  
QEH

When the first people rose from their seats and walked out, about 20 minutes into Jan Fabre's *Sweet Temptations* on Sunday night, my heart rose with them. At least I was not alone in my reaction to the appalling, amateurish-sounding offstage voices during the long prologue, while a man sits alone on the stage and oranges, propelled from the wings, roll past him.

A joke strip-tease did little to redeem the gloom: figures appearing briefly to shout, squeal or croak various mad messages lowered the spirits further. Two men in wheelchairs, caricatures of Stephen Hawking, began the first version of their long, slow, lugubrious, repeatedly recurring discussions about a wooden owl. There was also the first of many imitation orgies. More and more spectators departed.

By the halfway point in this three-and-a-half-hour, no-interval show the trickle of people walking out became a stream. Might it turn into a flood and empty the hall, so that I, too, could go? Alas, no. Since Jan Fabre arrives hailed as a serious theatre artist, and since his reputation secured the joint commissioning of *Sweet Temptations* by reputable organisations in Vienna, Frankfurt, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Brussels, you may think I missed the point. Well, let me describe this theatrical emperor's new clothes.



An imitation orgy? A scene from Jan Fabre's *Sweet Temptations* at QEH

Apart from the owl, the text includes frequent and detailed offers of sexual services from some of the performers, a long Shakespeare parody, Nazi speeches and complaints about the television, in a mixture of languages, mainly English and German.

Several of the women and men pretend to masturbate: one woman pretends to urinate in a pail, another has her breasts kneaded. The two wheelchair men are thrown out of their chairs and

stripped, and dance a little jig. The speaking is often so bad that I assume this must be intended: the dancing is better but the choreography is puerile, mainly simple exercises on the spot. Intermittent music by Iggy Pop is loud and forceful. Everything goes on for a long time: almost everything is repeated, over and over. Towards the end everything grows louder, more obscene, sillier and more repetitious. By then, I am glad to say, my mind was numb, inoculated

against any further insult. Fabre is praised for supposedly discovering a new kind of theatrical mix: speech, movement, dance, mime, music, all splashed chaotically together. Some of us might think we have been there before, and seen it better done. Others obviously find the experience novel: too bad that so many who wanted to taste his dramatic cocktail found themselves shaken, not stirred.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## TELEVISION REVIEW

### Age has not withered them, much

Until quite recently, the main evidence that television programme-makers were aware of the existence of old people was the continuing employment of superannuated game-show hosts, greasily patronising tooken wrinkles who were scarcely older than themselves. Twinkling or sceptical grannies, stern or indulgent grandads, and securely-invested couples enjoying their index-linked pensions, were to be seen in various ads, but otherwise the over-60s were invisible.

With the advent of such series as *The Last of the Summer Wine*, *The Golden Girls* and *One Foot in the Grave*, things have improved, but *Shaking the Heavens* (BBC2) is the first documentary series of which I am aware that is devoted to "giving voice to the wisdom of years", as *Radio Times* put it. Last night's opener (of six) was *Long Distance Runners*, was Long Distance Runners, a spy scamper from Scotland a spy scamper from Scotland and back, via London and a Rutland farm, in the company of an octoge-

**Shaking the Heavens**  
BBC 2

marian marathon runner, nonagenarian milkman, septagenarian shepherdess and other vigorous veterans.

Eighty-year-old Jenny Wood-Allen has raised thousands of pounds for charity through her running, which she will continue, sanctioned or not, until she drops. The film was guided by her, via voice-over and frequent clips of her in training or competing in the London Marathon. Her unflinching, elegant, track-suited progress along the roads of Tayside was in contrast to John Wilkinson's gingerly exertions on the football field, where he referees twice a week. His physical frailty was almost painfully apparent in the changing-room as he peeled off layer after layer of insulation, but he was there, and in command of both his faculties and the proceedings.

Off the field, as the film spelt out rather too plainly, he

can find no regular, paid outlet for his intellect and energy, being rejected out of hand as too old for any employment. Clearly, the only way to ensure that you will not be forced out of your job in old age is either to be self-employed or to take on work nobody else wants to do. Ninety-one-year-old milkman Tom Jones, seen carefully hopping over a (low) wall, probably belongs to the latter category, along with chiropodist Marjorie Jones (90) and farmworker Sheila Ellis.

Ellis was slightly coy about her exact age but unembarrassed about conducting sheep-midwifery on camera, in close-up. She seemed to find giving birth talks to farmers twice more of a challenge, but one so which she set herself with the same brisk determination. There was no fake sentiment about this programme: her regrets at having neglected a personal life for the sheep's sake were simply stated and all the more convincing for their brevity.

Others featured in the programme and already past the normal sack-by date, were busy and apparently successful in chiropody, running a hat shop and hat-making factory, editing family papers and letters for publication, playing saxophone and the harp (that last looks like bed-begging). They made a formidable case for themselves, but their exceptional accomplishments inevitably set them apart from the majority of their contemporaries, for whom socialising and a little light shopping may be the limit of their aspirations.

TONY PATRICK



# Was the Great War a civil war?

**Catherine Milner visits a remarkable new war museum in the Somme valley**



IF THERE is some corner of a foreign field that is forever England, it is the valley of the Somme in northern France. Almost every new village or turning in the road yields yet another neatly-mown plot and more ranks of English graves. Names such as Delville Wood, Thiepval, Ramcourt and Albert still ring in the ears of those who have spent their entire lives trying to forget them. Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Rudyard Kipling and Rupert Brooke have immortalised the tragedy of the callow crusaders who died there. "Flowers of England" cut down before their time.

But what did the Great War mean to the Germans and French? What of their "lost generation"? This is the question posed by a new museum and research centre that opened at Peronne, in the heart of the battlefields, at the weekend. Deliberately non-partisan, it is, in the words of its curator, Hugue Hairy, "trying to make sense of the common experiences between the nations involved", rather than pointing the finger at anyone. Hairy feels the time has come for an unbiased academic appraisal of the Great War. "It is history," he says, "there are few surviving veterans of the first world war and it can thus be viewed unhampered by emotion."

But can it? One academic involved in the museum describes anti-German feelings in the north-east of France as a "time-bomb" ready to go off at the slightest provocation. This, he says, is why no major museum of this sort has been created before. Certainly physical reminders of the war are omnipresent: 17 tons of shells were picked up from fields in the area last year. Whatever the political complexities, the stated objective of the new museum, L'Historial de la Grande Guerre, remains the same: to see history in a new way: to see the Great War as a "European civil war", fought with equally valid arguments on each side.

Visitors to the Somme are not just tourists but pilgrims. This is reflected in the design of the new museum, which despite having the external appearance of a gun emplacement, has an aura of monastic sanctity within. It overlooks a dark and gloomy lake and adjoins an old castle keep, one of the few edifices in Peronne not to have been flattened by the war. "We did not want to



One of the "Flowers of England": a British soldier sleeps beside his rifle in a front-line trench at Thiepval in September 1916

glamorise war: we wanted to be respectful," says Dr Winter, one of the museum's academic advisers. "The problem we faced is how do you commemorate a catastrophe where nine million men died, and 30 million were wounded?"

Most startling is the way objects are displayed. "Trenches" built into the floor are occupied by "dead" soldiers — stuffed uniforms lying prone. Forlorn little mementoes such as tin cups, shaving brushes, notepads and puttees lie scattered around, as well as guns, trench-pumps and wire-cutters. Hovering above, attached to a wire, are more personal souvenirs: a crucifix made out of shells in one case, a jockey drawing of a portly "pal" in another. If the centre of each room represents life in the trenches, the walls are reserved for a description of life back home: armies of robust matrons making tank camouflage, military hospitals with Heath-Robinson "ossuary aids", newspapers with unflinchingly defiant headlines, and

the war posters, ironic if not mendacious, such as the one that features a smiling trooper sitting in his sunny trench, emblazoned with the words, "He's Happy and Satisfied, are You?"

But it is with the war films, Sir Henry Newbolt's "living pictures of the dead", that this museum excels. Over 30 hours of film are shown on dozens of small screens positioned round the rooms. Kitcheners can be seen furiously appealing for volunteers in Trafalgar Square, faced by a sea of eagerly raised hands. Or greenstalk boys nudging and giggling at each other as they try on their new army caps and compare their "Derby certificates" that said they were fit for war. German wives are seen stuffing flowers into the laps of their proud, stiff-necked husbands, while screens further on show the pathetic figures of soldiers sans eyes, sans legs or arms, gibbering with shell-shock.

The ghostliness of the front-line is

left for a special film shown on the big screen of the museum cinema. It narrates the story of Harry Fellowes, a British soldier who survived the Somme by being knocked unconscious, and lying for days amongst his dead friends. Background music is provided by the shrills and swells of Britten's "War Requiem". One of the most affecting pieces of film shows soldiers standing round a mass grave, watching their friends being buried. Tight-lipped and ashen-faced, demonstrably still not inured to death, their expressions are scanned by the camera as they gently sprinkle soil over the mummified bodies.

If the films give the soldiers some corporeal identity, it is by their poems that they are most remembered by people today. "Words had become debased by propaganda and hatred during the war, but poems were like a huge mountain in that flat landscape," says Dr Winter, explaining why there was such a terrific output of

them, by all ranks from all nations. Apart from transcriptions from the notebooks of Charles Sorley, Robert Graves, Wilfred Owen, Kafka and Apollinaire, there are also simple letters of thanks for tins of corned beef and sardines from those less eminent, arresting because they are so ordinary. There are drawings too: Otto Dix's series of prints, "Der Krieg" amongst the most vehement; putrefying faces and bomb-mangled bodies that speak of the unspeakable.

One of the most moving passages is not from a soldier but from Catherine Thomas, wife of the poet Edward, describing their last night before he left for France, where he was killed three months later. The repercussions of the first world war are still being felt in the Balkans, and this museum adds its own reminder of the incalculable misery caused by "A Call to Arms".

● L'Historial de la Grande Guerre, Château de Peronne, Somme (010 33 22921698). Open 10am — 7pm daily.

## MUSEUMS: PARIS

### Babar's sixtieth birthday party

Josephine Akrell joins the families at the little elephant's own exhibition

"OH, REGARDE, c'est Babar" — a dozen tiny voices exclaim, as an entire école maternelle descends on the Musée en Herbe in picturesque Montmartre, where a new exhibition of all things Babar marks the sixtieth birthday of France's most famous little elephant, and the publication of his latest adventure, *La Victoire de Babar*.

First published in 1932, two years after Tintin, that other stalwart of French children's literature, the tales of Babar, the orphaned elephant who leaves his native forest for the big city, have been translated into 17 languages and are loved by young readers the world over.

The well-mannered, impeccably-dressed elephant was originally the impromptu hero of a bedtime story dreamt up by imaginative French mother Cécile de Brunhoff, whose painter husband, Jean, endowed her creation with a name, a pair of spats, and that distinctive suit, "d'une agréable couleur verte".

Having written and illustrated a handful of volumes with their childish curly writing and touchingly naive drawings, de Brunhoff died suddenly in 1937, leaving his 13-year-old son, Laurent, to take up the watercolours for a further 30 titles.

After a post-war period in the doldrums, Babar is now enjoying worldwide success in the hands of an American publishing company, the only non-American character, according to Laurent de Brunhoff, to challenge Walt Disney's monopoly in the States, thanks to the unchanging values of "family, amitié, fraternité" that Babar embodies. "His motto could be: don't panic, everything will work out."

The plaid little elephant means big money on both sides of the Atlantic. Second only to Disney in the American profit stakes, Babar is currently being televised in France and England, and is approved of as "ecologically sound" in Germany — that green suit, no doubt — whilst the Scandinavians find the pacifistic pachyderm the per-

fect antidote to the violent Japanese cartoons now gracing European television screens. Babar's world, under Jean de Brunhoff, was actually far from all sweetness and light — early on in the saga, his mother is killed by a "cruel hunter" — but the stories have been sweetened under Laurent, with the hunter-episode expurgated in some versions for younger children.

The current author has also lightened the moralising tone of the early stories, and Jean de Brunhoff's "ideal" city of Océsteville, with its rows of identical houses, typical of France's 1930s egalitarian dream, has metamorphosed under Laurent into a more individualistic elephantine paradise.



Jean de Brunhoff

None of this, of course, bothers the four-year-olds at the Musée en Herbe, who wander freely around the "interactive" exhibition, dressing up gleefully as King Babar and Queen Cécile, while their parents admire the original Babar sketches. Ironically, the de Brunhoff family house, where France's favourite elephant came into being, was at Chassy in the Val de Marne — only a few miles away from the site of the future Euro-Disney. ● Babar is at the Musée en Herbe, 2, rue Ronard, Paris 18e, until February 1993.

## Relais & Châteaux: a magnificent Times offer

### A life of luxury in France

Today *The Times*, in association with Relais & Châteaux, presents the fourth day of a unique opportunity to enjoy the hospitality of 42 carefully selected establishments of individual character across France.

Regarded by many as the world's finest chain of hotels and restaurants, Relais & Châteaux have developed, for the first time, an all-inclusive offer only for readers of *The Times*. The participating establishments offer a VIP welcome for two people with dinner, accommodation and breakfast at 30 per cent below normal tariff rates. All government taxes and service charges are included in the proposed prices.

Relais & Châteaux was created by seven like-minded hoteliers in 1954. As well as the châteaux, the group has grown to include abbeys, manor houses, mills or important residences which have been converted into very comfortable hotels or elegant restaurants. Beyond that of quality, the guiding philosophy then, as now, was based on the famous five "Cs" of the association standing for Character, Courtesy, Charm, Charm and Cuisine.

Almost 40 years later the chain is represented in 40 nations. Of the 158 establishments in France, 42 non-selected hotels have been selected to offer *Times* readers this unique French experience. From a gastronomic experience in Alsace to a late season break on the Côte d'Azur, from

Collect six tokens in *The Times* and stay at a top French hotel at a 30 per cent discount



the golf courses of Brittany to the culture and beauty of the Loire Valley, Relais & Châteaux offer hospitality at its very best. Most Relais & Châteaux hotels are to be found in unspoilt countryside locations and are renowned for their high culinary standards.

The chain offers four different categories of comfort which are recognisable by the colours of their shields. The category Green represents the standard of a pleasant and simple country residence. Blue stands for a fine comfortable house in pleasing surroundings and Yellow for the refined comfort of a superb residence.

### A new vintage classic

Jean-Marie Amat's Saint-James Restaurant, at Bouliac on the edge of Bordeaux, has long been a place of pilgrimage for the lovers of good food. Since 1990 the restaurant (No. 124 in the Relais & Châteaux Guide) has had a remarkable hotel to complement it: the Hauterive Hotel, designed by Jean Nouvel, the architect renowned for his Institute of the Arab World in Paris.

Jean-Marie Amat's hotel consists of four pavilions joined by a long gallery. It breathes the spirit of refined, modern luxury. In the white bedrooms, there are huge cushions and enormous mixed beds. The new restaurant, also designed by Nouvel, is in Gallo-Roman style, with beamed ceilings and Doric columns, and a fine view across to the Garonne river. Amat's cooking is in the classic Bordelais style, lightened by the influence of nouvelle cuisine. That means fillet of eel with onion and

bacon, grilled lobster with a clove of garlic, pigeon with spices... A window permits the diners to look into the kitchen and watch their dishes being prepared if they wish. The wine is naturally Bordeaux.

The hotel is well situated for visits to the great wine châteaux of the Médoc. There are now organised tours up the Médoc, which the hotel will

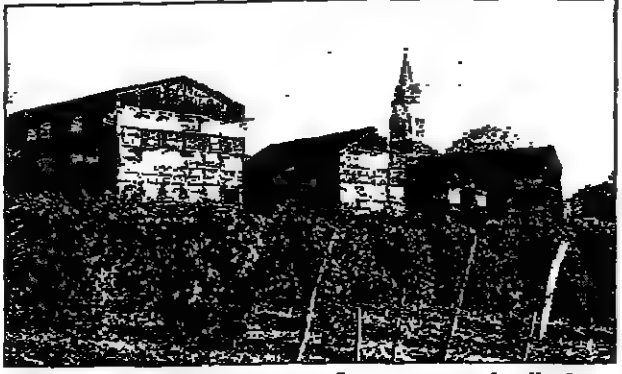
a complimentary copy of the Relais & Châteaux International Guide 1992 and the corresponding European Road Map, which is valued at £7.50.

The International Guide provides all the relevant information you will need to help you to select your hotels from those included in this offer, together with a detailed description of all the facilities and services offered by the hotels and restaurants within the group as a whole, including accommodation and restaurant rates and annual and weekly closing dates.

This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between September 15 and December 31, 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. To qualify, simply collect any six of the seven tokens published in *The Times*. Token four is published here. Further tokens will be published throughout the week and details of how to apply for your "Passport to Privilege" card will appear on Saturday, with a list of the hotels available.

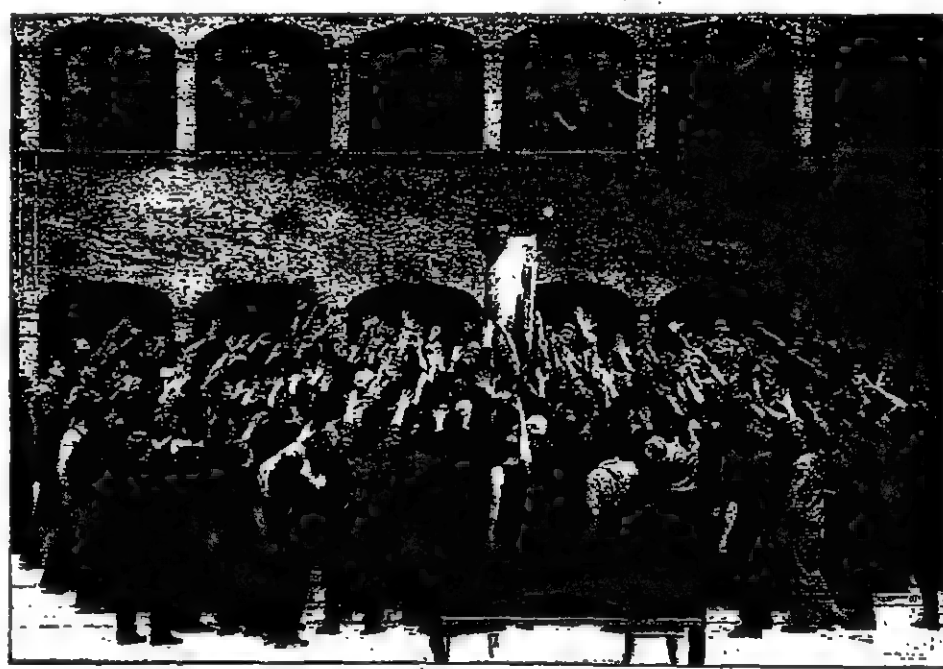
know about, and one can visit the wine museum at Château Mouton-Rothschild (except in August). Also within easy reach is the more hilly wine country round St-Emilion.

Bordeaux itself is now a handsome city, with its theatre just restored to its former splendour; particularly attractive is the area of old wine-merchants' houses along the quayside.



The Saint-James Restaurant: for gastronomic pilgrims

## THEATRE: SALZBURG FESTIVAL



Breathtaking crowd scenes: Peter Stein's *Julius Caesar* in the Felsenreitschule

### Drama makes a comeback

There is a new mood in the air in Salzburg this summer, as the ghost of Herbert von Karajan is chased away by a senior spirit, that of festival founder Max Reinhardt. Under Karajan, Salzburg was above all a music festival, with the theatre a mere distraction from the main programme of operas and concerts. But when the festival began in 1920, it consisted only of Reinhardt's production of *Everyman* in the Cathedral Square.

The new artistic director, Gérard Morier, has set about restoring the theatre to its central position at the festival, appointing Peter Stein, Germany's leading director, as director of theatre. In his first season, Stein has already proved that he can attract the stars to Salzburg, with Andrzej Wajda directing a Polish classic at the Landestheater and many of Germany's top actors appearing in Stein's own production of *Julius Caesar* at the Felsenreitschule.

The Felsenreitschule is an old riding school with a huge playing area nearly fifty metres wide, bordered by three tiers of arches carved out of the side of a mountain and forming the finest open air theatre north of the Alps. *Julius Caesar* is played in daylight, with a canvas roof drawn across for night scenes lit by

torches and braziers. Two hundred extras have been hired to play a mob dressed in blue overalls and red headbands and to form the opposing armies in Rome's civil war, while the principal actors wear togas over modern suits.

Much of the political radicalism which characterised Stein's work in the 1970s and 1980s has now disappeared and his recent productions have been highly detailed, beautifully crafted works with little overt political content.

So it is with *Julius Caesar*. The actors are magnificent, notably Thomas Holtzmann as a stooping, brooding Brutus, and the crowd scenes are breathtaking. But ultimately it is almost too beautiful, and a collection at the interval for victims of the civil war in Yugoslavia reinforces the feeling that Stein could have done more with this play, if he had paid less attention to marshalling his stage armies and more to the world around him.

If the theatre in Western Europe has often chosen a political role, the Eastern European theatre has had its political function thrust upon it, and Polish director Andrzej Wajda is pleased to be rid of it now that communism has collapsed. Stanislaw Wyspianski's play *Wesele* (The Wedding), written in 1901, is, however, a highly political

one. Based on an actual wedding between a poet friend of Wyspianski's and a peasant girl, *Wesele* explores — in more than a hundred scenes — the relationship between peasants and intellectuals in Poland's national struggle.

Andrzej Wajda was himself part of the historic Polish coalition of peasants and intellectuals which formed Solidarity in the 1980s and it is not hard to imagine the play's appeal in Poland. It failed to make an impact in Salzburg, partly because its concerns are so exclusively Polish and partly because Karl Dedecius's translation is too faithful in its rendering of the verse, which makes it difficult to listen to.

However, these two plays have received as much attention as any opera or concert at Salzburg and plans are already well advanced for next year's season, when English director Deborah Warner directs *Coriolanus* and Claus Peymann directs a new play by Botho Strauss. The theatre is now firmly back at the heart of the festival and it will take another Karajan to drive it away again.

## DENIS STAUNTON

● *Julius Caesar* can be seen at the Felsenreitschule at 3pm today and *Wesele* is at the Landestheater at 8.30pm. The festival continues to August 30.

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● **AMSTERDAM:** The Great Utopia is a fascinating show which explores the Russian Avant-Garde period (1915-1932). It boasts more than 800 exhibits, many from collections in the Soviet Union on public display for the first time since the Twenties. Stedelijk Museum, Paulus Potterstraat 13. Tel: (010 3120) 6732911. Until Aug 31.

● **PESARO:** The Rossini Opera Festival continues in the pretty coastal town of Pesaro until August 18. *Il viaggio a Reims* is conducted by the Berlin Philharmonic music director, Claudio Abbado, with a cast including Cheryl Studer, Ruggero Raimondi, Samuel Ramey and Lucia Valentini Terrani (Aug 16, 18). There are also performances of *Semiramide*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *L'occasione fa il ladro*. Rossini Opera Festival, Via Rossini 37, I-61100 Pesaro. Tel: (010 39721) 33184/697360.

● **SALZBURG:** Soprano Lucia Popp has more recently been involved in supporting various creative projects in her native Czechoslovakia. However, she will make an appearance at the Salzburg Festival this year as the Countess in Mozart's *The Nozze di Figaro*.

Reflecting the forward-looking ideals of this year's festival, Janáček's music is given its first airing there when Claudio Abbado conducts *From the House of the Dead*. Missions' vast *Saint Francis of Assisi* is also being performed under Esa-Pekka Salonen. Gernot Friedl's staging of the Hugo von Hofmannsthal play, *Jedermann*, continues in the repertoire (see feature, left). Salzburger Festspiele, Postfach 140, A-5010 Salzburg. Tel: (010 43662) 8045. Until Aug 30.

● **TOULOUSE:** Inaugurated in 1978, this month-long festival is entirely devoted to the celebration of the piano, with concerts in the Cimetière des Jacobins. There are planned recitals by Martha Argerich, Michel Béroff, Leon Fleisher and Yefim Bronfman. Information: 61 rue de la Pomme, 3100 Toulouse. Tel: (010 33) 61224005/61110222. Aug 28-Sept 25.

KARI KNIGHT



سكنى الى الجبل



# Elvis is in town with his author

Can any serious investigator honestly believe Presley is still alive? **Jon Stock** meets a woman who apparently does



Jesse Jackson, left, Muhammad Ali and guess who in 1984

**I**t would be reassuring to report that Gail Brewer-Giorgio's life changed dramatically on the day she received a telephone call from Elvis Presley. Most lives would, particularly if he decides to ring in 1988, 11 years after he died. But Mrs Brewer-Giorgio seems to have taken it all in her stride.

"It was 2.30 in the morning," she explains, in a Deep South drawl. "My husband passed me the phone and asked what was going on. The man on the phone said that Elvis would be ringing me in 20 minutes. I was very cynical — I had gotten joke calls before saying 'Hey baby, this is Elvis' — but I thought I can't afford not to take this call."

"My biggest worry was not being able to find a tape recorder. But I found one and, sure enough, Elvis rang me 20 minutes later. I asked him a question that I knew an impersonator would not be able to answer, and we talked for 45 minutes. We talked about his daughter, Lisa Marie. He was in a state of shock about her wedding, which he had attended, along with Priscilla. He was also finding it strange that he was going to be a grandfather. The news of Lisa's pregnancy had not been made public when he called me."

Ever since the news of Presley's death was beamed around the world on the afternoon of August 16, 1977, Mrs Brewer-Giorgio has been saying, in all seriousness, that he is still alive. She is not alone. There are a number of "serious" writers in the United States who have tried to prove, through meticulous research rather than sensationalist speculation, that Presley's death was faked. Mrs Brewer-Giorgio claims to have studied more than 40,000 official documents on the subject.

As the fifteenth anniversary of his death approaches, the "Presley is

Alive" industry shows no sign of abating. In 1990, two surveys revealed that between 84 and 86 per cent of Americans believe Presley is alive. Until the end of last year, Ladbrokes in the UK was offering odds of only 250-1 that he is still alive. Ladbrokes closed bets when Presley appeared on an American stamp, an honour reserved solely for dead people.

Mrs Brewer-Giorgio is visiting England to promote *The Elvis Files*, a video and book in which she repeats her unlikely claim. Preposterous maybe, but it evidently touches a nerve. One needs only to read the numerous articles in certain classes of tabloid to know that Presley is, in fact, working in a chip shop in Croydon.

Mrs Brewer-Giorgio's first book on the subject, *Is Elvis Alive?*, has so far sold three million copies worldwide. *The Elvis Files*, paperback versions of which included a cassette of her alleged telephone conversation with Presley, and *Operation Fountain Pen*, a third book due out next year, are likely to do equally well, thanks to a combination of wishful thinking on the part of Presley's fans, and the public's insatiable desire for wild conspiracy theories.

Mrs Brewer-Giorgio certainly excels in this department. She says the former king of rock 'n' roll is living anonymously somewhere in the US as part of a Federal witness protection programme, having got caught up in a multi-million-dollar drugs and fraud cartel involving the Gambino family and General Noriega. Presley was persuaded by the FBI to testify against several of the nastier members of the cartel, and, fearing for his life, duly went into hiding.

Simple, really. And there was I thinking Elvis was an overweight pop star who overdosed on drugs. However, Mrs Brewer-Giorgio

## Let's Be Friends



An album with a message: Gail Brewer-Giorgio says that Elvis approached her after the wedding of Lisa Marie, his daughter, and that they have spoken on the telephone

does not come across as mad when you meet her. Nor does she appear to be solely interested in money, despite the commercial potential of "Elvis is Alive" stories.

She first became interested in Presley's death when a novel she wrote shortly afterwards was mysteriously pulled from bookshops. *Orion* was about a rock star who faked his death. She received \$60,000 for the book and it duly appeared in bookshops. She then started hearing reports from shop owners that it was being removed from the shelves by men in sharp suits. The distributors later admitted they had been told to "hang it out to dry."

The author is 53 and has been happily married to Carmine, a wealthy computer consultant, since 1959. "I am very fortunate. I have a husband who makes a really good living, too," she says. "My lifestyle has not changed at all since writing about Elvis." The couple live on Lake Lanier in Gainesville, Georgia, and have three children — a

daughter, aged 22, and two sons, aged 28 and 30 — who fervently believe in their mother's work. "They also make jokes about it," she says. "When I lose the car keys they all say, 'Ah Mom, you can find Elvis all right, but you can't find your car keys. You're a great investigator.'"

**F**or 30 years, she has earned an eclectic living as a freelance journalist (for the *Marist Journal*), a broadcaster (her own phone-in show on Radio WRNG in Atlanta), a novelist (*Orion*), a scriptwriter (networked TV sitcom) and an illustrator (forthcoming children's book).

She claims she gets no furry looks from her neighbours in Gainesville, despite her eccentric stance on Presley. In the flesh, she seems a level-headed, articulate, intelligent woman, full of maternal savvy. So, why on earth does she set herself up for such public ridicule? "More people are afraid for me

than I am," she says. "I am too old now. My children give me worse trouble. The hassle I get for writing about Elvis is nothing compared with them. If you take on a controversial subject like Marilyn Monroe or JFK, it is inevitable. It is all part of getting into the heat of the kitchen."

Her introduction to the British media has certainly been heated. The first people to ring her hotel when she arrived last week were from the *Daily Sport*, which wanted an exclusive. Denied one by her publicist, the *Sport* offered a £2 million reward for anybody who could find Presley, and duly poured scorn on her claims.

Her first live interview on television, for *The Richard and Judy Show*, was equally scorching: the presenters and audience ripped her apart, enjoying a prolonged belly laugh at her expense. But it did not seem to bother Mrs Brewer-Giorgio, who has endured much worse at the hands of Oprah Winfrey.

"I got the idea that they were playing it safe. It is so much easier that way. Because I am telling such a ludicrous story, they do not want to go out on a limb, so they make fun of it. I don't mind."

On the day I spent with Mrs Brewer-Giorgio, she conducted an exhausting round of interviews with impressive zeal. Whether it was for Derek Jameson on Radio 2 or for a hostile Elvis Presley fan club magazine, she remained inscrutable, inviolate. It was alarmingly easy to get caught up in her enthusiasm, so easy, in fact, that I had to keep ringing up friends to tell them whom I was interviewing and what she had to say about Presley. The sound of unrestrained laughter brought me back to earth.

The long day finished with an interview by Bob Friend on *Sky News* (Skyline). Relaxed beforehand, she wiped away some of Friend's cynicism with a broad smile, but Atlanta time was obviously catching up on her. Favourite lines such as "Elvis put his life on

the line for his country", and "You know, I wasn't a fan, I haven't even seen one of his movies", sounded well worn and weary. Friend wound up the interview by saying: "And tomorrow, Joseph Cotten, alive and well in Tunbridge Wells."

At this sort of moment you hope the mask might drop and she will admit to it all being an extravagant hoax. Nobody could be dedicated to so public an immolation of her integrity.

Sadly, she is. "Bob was determined to have the last laugh," she says, bouncing back. "But he didn't. You would be surprised about the people watching at home. Never underestimate the public." As if to prove her point, she takes me into her confidence for the first time that day: "If something happens next January, give me a call." She disappears before I can ask what she means. Her publicist tells me later that she thinks Presley is coming back in 1993. Oh dear, she doesn't smile. You read about it here first.

After customers complain about rude and incompetent shop assistants, a spirited counter attack

## Say thank you, make our day

**T**he worst thing about customers, according to Rachel Sims who works in Miss Selfridge, is when they ask an assistant who has just come back from the stockroom for a particular garment. "You tell them it's not in stock, they insist you go and check, and think you're being lazy and awkward when you say you know it's not in stock. You then find yourself going to the stockroom just so they can see you doing it."

The worst thing about shop assistants in supermarkets, department stores and boutiques, according to customers who took part in a recent Mori poll, is that they are "slow, unhelpful, uninterested and rude". The Mori poll, conducted for the National Consumer Council, also suggested that what two out of five shoppers hate most about high street stores are the staff.

There has been, as the *Daily Mail* columnist Keith Waterhouse's fictional shop assistants Sharon and Tracy pointed out, "Not a blind dickbird about what shop assistants think of the customers".

A brief poll among female shop assistants — most assistants are female — many of whom were immersed in the summer sales, suggests that the response from the real shop floor regarding customers is robust. "They're getting ruder, much ruder," Valerie Forster, a Harrods sales consultant, said. She trained in dress fitting in the days when buying a frock was a day-long affair, including sherry and sandwiches. "Some customers get really ruffled, specially if they've had problems parking. But if a customer is upset, I try



At your service: assistant Lynne Cannonier with a customer at Harrods

to find out why and calm her down. Because we want to keep her. I can't say go elsewhere, although you feel like saying that, quite a lot. You just have to bite your tongue."

At Miss Selfridge's flagship store in Duke Street, London, which serves a couple of thousand customers each day, Melanie Smith, an employee for three years, says it is long queues at tills that make customers angry. "You have to learn how to calm them down, even though you're going as fast as you can. People are always pushing in and making comments. Some get fed up with waiting, simply drop everything on the floor and walk out."

Possibly the area most likely to bring on a breakdown for employees is in the communal changing rooms: at Miss Selfridge, where it is normal for 60 customers to be chang-

ing under the eye of one member of staff, life can become pressurised. "You get a huge bundle of clothes thrown back at you," Miss Sims said, "and you have to hang them all back up again. Once I spent all day putting the clothes back onto two rails. All day. That was all I did, just pick up the same clothes. People won't bother bringing their hangers back out, even if we ask them nicely, and we can't look after each person separately."

**M**argaret Sharkey, the manager of the Monsoon branch in Richmond, southwest London, is very familiar with customer angst. "On the whole, the public are OK. Sometimes they shout at me in the shop, last Saturday a woman was screaming at me from the back of the queue. She was actually near to tears

it turned out she felt bad about her body, how she looked and so on."

"I spoke to her quietly and sympathetically and said she could try on the clothes in the privacy of her own bedroom, and that she could bring them straight back if she didn't like them. The thing is not to respond in a loud or aggressive way."

As manager, Ms Sharkey's is a highly responsible job, yet she finds that people behave as if she is "just a shop girl". "The big problem in retail is the public's attitude. They think that because we are in a service industry, we therefore have a lower intellect," said Ms Sharkey, whose shop recently achieved Monsoon's highest annual turnover for a single branch. "People are not usually insulting, but the way they speak to me is very patronising. When customers ring up with an enquiry, some

hang up when they've got an answer, without saying thanks. In the shop, they turn their back on you when they've got the information they need."

The Mori poll's suggestion that shoppers think staff know little or nothing about their stock was met with amazement. "I've been working in food halls and horticulture at Marks for over five years," said Mandy Mahoney, from the Marks & Spencer store in Marble Arch, London. "I've specialised in my field; customers come in and think we just go to any old area each morning."

Ms Mahoney can not only advise you on how to water your fuchsia, she can give you dietary information, recipes for dinner parties and answer queries on vegetarianism. She also helps to control the stock, removes any food she feels is below quality from the shelves, and places orders.

Her colleague Mercedes Garcia, who works on footwear, has 55 different brands of hosiery in her mind at any one time and wears a badge indicating she is fluent in Spanish.

The most heartfelt plea for understanding came from the Miss Selfridge assistants, who seem most often on the receiving end of life's hurried pile of clothes. "The old cliché of the customer being always right is what gives them airs and graces," Julie Maynard said. "People just shout and forget their manners. They forget you are a person, sometimes, that we are professionals, too. When you have a customer who turns round and thanks you, it makes your day."

ROSIE MILLARD

### TOMORROW

'I had barely started writing from Gascony when one of my friends wrote a piece about loud-mouthed journalists intent on making Gascony fashionable.' Barry Turner on writing when in France

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# Growing old gracefully, together

**Rachel Kelly**  
reports on two  
experimental  
homes that can  
be adapted to  
suit a lifetime of  
family needs

**A**re you male, fit, aged between 18 and 40, and of medium height? Do you have good sight, good hearing and are you right-handed? If so, lucky you to be part of the 18 per cent of the population for whom British houses are designed. If not, welcome to "lifetime" housing.

The term is probably unfamiliar, but is unlikely to remain so. A small but influential vanguard of architects and academics, led by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which funds research into housing and social policy, have plans for lifetime housing. It is, they say, the housing of the future. It could, they say, revolutionise the way we look at our homes. It should, they say, be widely adopted throughout the country.

But what, you may ask, exactly is a lifetime house? Just that a home for life, designed to be lived in from the first flush of flexible youth to the more arduous years of old age, in short, from cradle to grave. Along the way, the house can be adapted, altered, changed, rejigged, modified and amended. Houses will no longer be built with what Richard Best, director of the foundation, describes as the "ludicrous assumption" that everyone remains fit and able for the whole of his or her life.

There are about 4.25 million adults and 100,000 children with mobility impairment in Britain, according to the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, which is more than the combined population of Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

The number of people with special needs is rising because of an aging population, medi-



Streets ahead: New Earswick, North Yorkshire, where the first of the "lifetime" homes, right, is being built

cal advances which help more people to survive accidents and disease, and the development of care in the community.

Although lifetime houses will cater for the disabled, such homes should not be tarred by the "special needs" brush. "Lifetime homes are intended for all households. These homes cope with the ups and downs of every lifetime, for everyone," Mr Best says. "The house is fine if a teenager breaks a leg and is in a wheelchair for a few weeks. We can all entertain disabled friends and relatives at home. The extra space, standards help parents with baby-buggies and shopping, and give everyone the space to breathe. If we become frail in old age, we can manage easily."

The disabled are not forgotten, however. "The lifetime design means that with the minimum of cost and effort they can be adapted later, for example with a stair-lift."

Lifetime homes are also what Mr Best calls "visible". "Without any adaptations, visitors with disabilities, includ-

ing a wheelchair-user, can get into the home and move around easily," he says.

This is not an entirely new idea: the Scots thought of it first. Six years ago, the Edinburgh Housing Association in Edinburgh embraced the idea that its new developments should be "barrier free", where special consideration has been

**The house can be adapted, altered, changed, rejigged, and modified**

given to accessibility. About 300 such homes have been built. In November last year, the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations voted to call on Scottish Homes, the government body that funds social housing, to make "barrier free" homes a condition of building grants.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has built on and refined the Scottish concept,

shifting the emphasis from homes for the disabled to homes for everyone. "Our involvement arose out of a conference we held last year called Tomorrow's New Communities, which concentrated our minds on the idea of lifetime homes," Brian Jardine, deputy director of the foundation, says. "While the idea of lifetime housing has been on the minds of a lot of people involved with housing associations, the idea has not been applied to the whole of the housing stock. This is a message for speculative builders as much as for housing associations and the government."

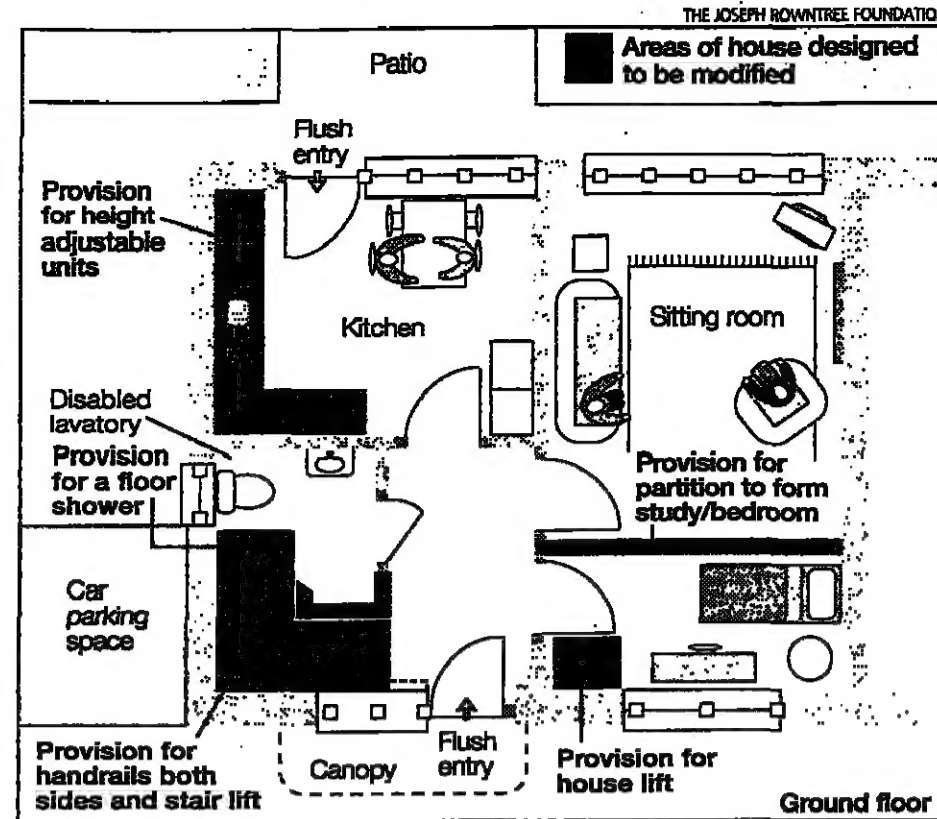
The first two lifetime homes are under construction on the outskirts of York at the foundation's New Earswick village, begun in 1992 by Joseph Rowntree himself, to experiment with new ideas in housing. They will be completed early next year.

The houses will be four-bedroomed and semi-detached, but with more space than the average home built

by the foundation for housing associations. One of the most common complaints about modern houses, according to the Building Research Establishment, a government-funded research and planning group, is that they are too small.

A lifetime one-bedroomed flat would be only a fraction bigger (about 2.5 square metres), but a lifetime four-bedroomed house would be substantially so, with 6.5 to 7.2 square metres extra. Families of all ages will like the spaciousness. "This will give everyone the space that is increasingly lacking in the ever-smaller new homes of today," Mr Best says.

The front-door approach will be level or gently sloping, allowing wheelchair access. The thresholds to the entrance will be flush and the front door wider than normal. Inside, there is room for a simple vertical lift to be built between floors. The interior doors are wide and there is a toilet on the ground floor, which could be converted into a shower if



needed be (smaller new homes tend to be built with the bathroom upstairs). The kitchen units are designed so that their heights can be adjusted if necessary.

The able-bodied family has much to gain from this design; so have the disabled, who no longer need to be segregated. "We want to get rid of the idea

**'These homes cope with the ups and downs of every lifetime'**

of 'special accommodation', Mr Jardine says.

There is a cost to building larger homes, to putting in wider doors and staircases, to enhanced standards within the dwelling, and to pricier building plots because of the extra space. Research by the Edinburgh office of architects Campbell & Arnott for the building directorate of the Scottish Office, to be published

later this year, will give a precise indication, but the foundation estimates that on average a lifetime home would cost between £7,500 and £10,000 on top of the normal £65,000 building costs.

"It would depend on the size of house you were building, and the density of the development," Mr Jardine says. "You may not be able to build as many lifetime homes because they need more space in between them. And the average home has a two-and-a-half metre parking space, whereas ours will have three-and-a-half metres to allow for a wheelchair."

The average house-buyer will doubtless balk, but there are savings. Later adaptations will cost less and be quicker to do, and if people can live in their own homes for longer, rather than having to move into special-care units in later life, there will be social services savings which could be ploughed back into housing by government.

There is nothing to be done about the existing housing

stock, but new homes could become lifetime ones. The simplest way to ensure their arrival is new building regulations for all builders. The environment department is researching new draft regulations on housing accessibility, to be published at the end of 1993 and to come into force six months later, but the fear is that their recommendations will incorporate only a few of the foundation's plans.

Private housebuilders are unlikely to experiment until regulations force them to. Lifetime homes cost more and, as yet, their advantages do not, in the public mind, outweigh their costs. They should do.

The mania for moving house will soon be seen as one of the odder features of the 1980s. For families, it is more enriching, and better for children, to shape the home to changing needs, thereby retaining one's neighbours and community. Lifetime homes provide that opportunity. Housing associations with government subsidy and a duty to house a wide social group must lead in building them until the private sector catches on.

A strict code of conduct will soon govern the agents who look after property

**M**anaging agents of residential property will soon have to follow a strict code of professional behaviour. Sir George Young, the housing minister, has announced that they will be answerable to it in court. This is one of three provisions to be included in the leasehold reform legislation being introduced in the next session of Parliament.

Sir George said that the management industry would be encouraged to draw up the code, which would then require the environment department's approval.

The second provision would be to give leaseholders the right to appoint their own suitably qualified person to audit management accounts and assess the managing agent's value for money.

Third, the right given in the 1987 act to acquire a freehold forcibly in the case of bad management would be strengthened and in such cases the freeholder should not expect to receive the full market value.

Sir George was addressing the first annual meeting of the Association of Residential Managing Agents, Arma, as it is to be known, has 60 members, who are managing agents keen to improve their image by showing that they are efficient and do not bully

## Managing the managers



Sir George: "strong marketing is vital"

leaseholders. "We are all getting sick of bad landlords and managers," Edward Woolfson, of Winkford's, says. Although no paper qualifications are necessary for setting up as a managing agent of residential property, Gerry Fox, the chairman, who is also on the housing committee of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, said that people in flats could get into trouble if they decided they

could do a better job of it themselves. "We want to enable leaseholders to find managing agents who aspire to high standards, and with a view to that, we are producing our own code of practice," he said. Sir George and Arma members clearly had in mind the need for managing agents to woo newly enfranchised leaseholders for contracts after the promised leasehold reform, which Sir George said could be law within a year. "It is essential for you to invest in ways of marketing yourselves," he said.

Asked why the legislation contained no mention of leaseholders extending their leases, Sir George replied that his priority was to bring together ownership and occupation.

David Glass, an Arma member, said that there was less interest in leasehold changes than was apparent and that of all leaseholders offered extensions of their leases only 7 per cent had "responded positively". Sir George replied: "You might

like to tell that to the Duke of Westminster". The duke, a freeholder of large tracts of central London, "takes a different view of this legislation".

Sir George said he knew there was considerable interest in the changes. He advised people given the chance to buy an extended lease to sit tight. "You will get a better deal once legislation is on the statute book," he said.

On the question of the eligibility of leaseholders to buy their freeholds, Sir George said that if, in a block, two-thirds of the residents were long-lease holders and two-thirds of that group wanted to buy, they would have the right. A long lease is defined as an original lease of more than 21 years with a low ground rent.

Asked how the cost of freeholds might be worked out, he said that the difference between the value of a property as freehold and its value as leasehold might be taken, and a minimum of half that sum — and up to all of it — would be payable to the landlord. The landlord would also probably get a multiple of the annual ground rent and the purchaser would pay legal costs.

**YVONNE THOMAS**  
Arma details: Michael Page, The Linen House, 253 Kilburn Lane, London, W10 4BQ

## Hidden off the beaten track

A piece of railway history has come on to the market near the picturesque village of Wellow

**R**ailway enthusiasts have been gathering regularly of late at the Fox and Badger public house in the village of Wellow, seven miles from Bath. After a pint or two, they leave the pub, take a sharp right, and then meander down a muddy track no more than 6ft wide to view an unusual property that has come on to the market: Wellow's signal box, which is for sale at £30,000 through Gratton Palmer-Snell.

The white clapboard and glass signal box, and a small, self-contained building beside it, stand on the side of a muddy track that was once the bed of the Somerset and Dorset railway line. The line was closed as part of the Beeching cuts in the 1960s, and the signal box lay empty

until it was bought by an artist, who used it as a studio. The box would need considerable work on it before it could be called home. Planning permission from Wansdyke district council would be needed for change of use from an artist's studio to residential use. The first priority would be to install a lavatory.

The 12ft x 14ft signal room could be transformed into a sitting room reached by its external wooden staircase. It has glazed windows on three sides, an open fireplace and views overlooking the village, countryside and, of course, the old railway track. On the ground floor is a further room of identical size which would need to be linked to the adjacent building. Rail buffs will be less



Room with a view: the signal box for sale at £30,000

excited by the signal box's neighbour, but it does provide useful extra space, with an upper room with floor to ceiling windows, a pitched ceiling exposing roof beams and skylights, and views across the fields. An external stone staircase leads to a downstairs room.

The box comes with a piece of land measuring 50ft

square. But be warned. Neighbours have full right of access across the property. Local railway enthusiasts, too, like to photograph the signal box, which is something of a local shrine. Curtains would be essential.

R.K.

Gratton Palmer-Snell (0225 335566)

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## BBC1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (99230)  
 6.30 **BBC Breakfast** begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when *Laurel and Jiff* Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (35295018)  
 8.55 **Olympic Grandstand** presented by Steve Rider. Athletics: 9.00 the first round of the women's 1,500m; 9.45 the first round of the women's 100m hurdles. Plus the start of the decathlon and the final of the women's table tennis singles. Includes News and weather at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (85235018). 12.55 **Regional News and Weather** (5191958)  
 1.00 **One O'Clock News** (Cee-fax) (28308)  
 1.30 **Neighbours** (Cee-fax) (43536124) 1.50 **Eldorado** (Cee-fax) (61476495)  
 2.30 **Olympic Grandstand**. Includes at 3.00 Baseball; 4.00 Hockey: the first men's semi-final; Athletics: 5.00 women's 100m hurdles, second round; 5.30 men's 200m semi-finals; 5.55 men's long jump qualifiers; 5.50 women's 200m semi-finals (96909037)  
 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Jill Dando. (Cee-fax) (61476495)  
 6.30 **Regional News Magazines** (308). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster 7.00 **Eldorado** (Cee-fax) (61501)  
 7.30 **Olympic Grandstand** introduced by Desmond Lynam. Athletics: 7.55 women's 400m final; 7.50 men's 400m final; 8.05 men's 800m final; 8.25 decathlon, the 400m. Plus news of the second men's hockey semi-final (25940)  
 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional News and weather (1582)  
 9.30 **Olympics Today**. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights from the day's competitions which included five gold medals in track and field events (58673)



Villain of the piece: John Landis, second left (11.00pm)

- 11.00 **Film: Into the Night** (1985).  
 ● CHOICE: A spoof thriller by John Landis of *Trading Places* features the lanky Jeff Goldblum as a bored suburban insomniac whose chance encounter with Michelle Pfeiffer lands him in a devilishly complicated plot involving French and Italian murder gangs and a bunch of errands. Along the way the film offers some pointed social satire and darker moments are mixed with broad comedy. Beyond that, *Into the Night* is an excuse for a riot of Hollywood in-jokes, parodying films and film styles and offering cameo roles to a host of Landis's fellow directors. Look carefully and you may catch a glimpse of anyone from David Cronenberg to Roger Vadim and Don Siegel. Landis himself plays the crazed villain. Film buffs will enjoy it enormously. Others, while missing the more specialised references, should still enjoy the pace and energy (910766)  
 12.50am **Weather** (8538167)

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## BBC2

- 6.45 **Open University: Images and Innovation** (5915105). Ends at 7.10  
 8.00 **Breakfast News** (7101292)  
 8.15 **England (b/w)**. Fisherman photographed between 1928 and 1934 (1825747) 8.20 **Army Lives**. Series on British army life (1). (Cee-fax) (6424563) 8.50 **Holiday Outings**. Kathy Taylor takes a cookery course in Co Cork (1) (4159259)  
 9.00 **Defenders of the Earth** (1). (Cee-fax) (7454650) 9.25 **Why Don't You...?** (1) (7464037) 9.55 **Playdays** (1) (6052872) 10.15 **Double Dare** (1) (6821940) 10.35 **The O-Zone** (1) (6582834)  
 10.50 **Film: The History of Mr Polly** (1949, b/w) starring John Mills and Sally Ann Howes. Big screen version of H.G. Wells's novel about a timid, drooping clerk who decides to break free from his domineering spouse and seek happiness elsewhere. Directed by Anthony Peabler (96609124)  
 12.25 **After Hours**. Entertainment magazine (5621785) 12.45 **Henry's Cart** (1) (6039050) 12.50 **Fireman Sam** (1) (60388766)  
 1.00 **Olympic Grandstand**. Tennis: the women's singles semi-finals; Canoeing: the 18km semi-finals (2409211)  
 2.20 **First Eleven**. Fredrick Raphael visits Constable country (1) (43789056) 2.35 **Country File** (1) (9829679)  
 3.00 **News and weather** (4046679) followed by *The Ship That Never Sailed*. The salvaging of a 14th-century German wreck (1) (6251940) 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather (6655853)  
 4.00 **Cartoon** (3975360) 4.10 **Attack of the Killer Tomatoes** (1) (1112124) 4.35 **Tricky Business**. Children's comedy (1) (6763765) 5.00 **Newsround** (5663476) 5.10 **Five Children and It**. Part three (of six) (1). (Cee-fax) (5700308)  
 5.35 **Neighbours** (1). (Cee-fax) (151495)  
 6.00 **Olympic Grandstand**. Athletics: 6.15 men's 400m semi-finals; 6.30 men's discus final; 6.40 women's 400m hurdles final; 7.00 men's 3,000m steeplechase semi-finals (98501)  
 7.30 **DEF IT: Rough Guide to Careers Update**. Design (949940) 8.10 **States of Mind**.  
 ● CHOICE: This latest study of American angst comes from West Virginia and focuses on the Smith family as it celebrates Thanksgiving. The Smiths are traditionalists who see the way the country is going. "I can see the whole nation sliding and it bothers me," says state trooper Larry Smith as he rattles off a gloomy catalogue of drugs, violence, corruption and unemployment. He blames Dr Spock for telling Americans they should not discipline their children. His wife feels that the awful prophecies of the Book of Revelation are coming true. His father is a born-again Christian who donates \$400 a month to religious causes. Paul Watson's film intersects this litany of disenchantment with the upbeat message of television, as game shows, commercials and evangelists belt out their invitations to a heaven on earth. (Cee-fax) (284785)  
 9.00 **Olympic Grandstand**. Athletics: the first round of the men's 5,000m (9124)



A puzzling case: Miguel Sandoval and Peter Boyle (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Screenplay: Death and the Compass**.  
 ● CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of the *Moviedrome* series, reverts to his previous occupation of film-maker with a typically rambling, sprawling and incoherent film. The film is a comedy or bordering on the incomprehensible depending on your point of view. It is the tale of a detective (played in an Al Capone hat and vivid blue suit by Peter Boyle) trying to make sense of a series of murders in a fictional Latin American city. The clues are hardly of the footprint or fingerprint variety. Rather the puzzle is intellectual, a mixture of metaphysics and mysticism, and it does not always fit easily with Cox's flashy visual style and comic-strip narration. *Death and the Compass* was adapted by Cox from a short story by Jorge Luis Borges. (Cee-fax) (50211)  
 10.30 **Newsnight** with Sue Cameron (583124)  
 11.15 **Anthony Holden on Polter**. An introduction to the card game, including action from the 1990 world series final (513360)  
 11.45 **Building Heights**. The late Sir James Stirling's Leicester University Engineering building (544495) 11.55 **Weather** (449747)  
 12.00 **Open University: Social Science** - Regions Apart (5621490). Ends at 12.55am

## ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am** (5215722)  
 9.25 **Jumble**. Cryptic word game show hosted by Jeff Stevenson. The guests are Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley (1) (7451563) 9.55 **Thames News** (2414308)  
 10.00 **Out of This World**. American comedy series (1) (2424785)  
 10.25 **The Wednesday Play: The Goodies**. Animation (1) (2427872)  
 10.55 **News headlines** (361921)  
 11.00 **Qx Tales**. Animated adventures of Olie the Ox (1) (3888698) 11.25 **Just For the Record**. More "best ever" performances from around the world (1576679) 11.50 **Thames News** (9948414) 11.55 **Cartoon Time** (6375018) 12.10 **Adverts** (1) (5695360)  
 12.30 **Lunchtime News** with Nicholas Owen and Fiona Armstrong. (Oracle) (271360) 1.05 **Thames News** (6364023)  
 1.15 **Home and Away**. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (772940) 1.45 **A Country Practice**. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (371211)  
 2.15 **Stratton Kent**. The chef prepares hummus (563292) 2.45 **Take the High Road**. Drama series set in the Highlands (9412389)  
 3.10 **News headlines** (4057785) 3.15 **Thames News headlines** (4056056) 3.20 **The Young Doctors**. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (6888037)  
 3.50 **Scotney Doo** (4939105) 4.15 **Hulk Hogan's Rock 'n' Wrestling** (1) (100921) 4.40 **Fun House** (1) (6087414)  
 5.10 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz game show for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness (4263872)  
 5.40 **Early Evening News** with John Suchet. Weather (317124) 5.55 **Thames Help** (1) (630853)  
 6.00 **Home and Away** (1). (Oracle) (124)  
 6.30 **Thames News** (6364023)  
 7.00 **Take Your Pick**. Des O'Connor presents another edition of the yes/no game show. (Oracle) (3969)  
 7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Oracle) (360)



Bemused: Lech Walesa dines out with the Queen (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Elizabeth II**.  
 ● CHOICE: It has been a mixed year for the monarchy, simultaneously pilloried by the press and celebrated in the respectful documentary made to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Queen's accession. The programme drew nearly 18 million viewers when it was shown on the BBC in February. It should score highly again and not just as an antidote to the Olympic Games. Director Edward Mirzoeff's year-in-the-life format emphasises the Queen's role as the dutiful and conscientious head of the nation and helps to explain why she manages to escape the criticism that has been heaped on other members of her family. Highlights include Lech Walesa's bemused reaction to an opulent banquet in Windsor Castle and an unintentionally comic encounter between Her Majesty and former President Ronald Reagan. (Teletext) (5853)  
 10.00 **News at Ten** with Trevor McDonald and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) (36037) 10.30 **Thames News** (260872)  
 10.40 **Film: Return of the Seven** (1966) starring Yul Brynner and Robert Fuller. Western sequel to the successful *The Magnificent Seven*. Brynner is again in the Charles Bronson role recruiting men to help him free the male members of an impoverished Mexican village captured by a marauding gang of outlaws. Directed by Burt Kennedy (37488056)  
 12.30am **Hollywood Report**. Movie gossip (1) (56254)  
 1.00 **Film: Dressed to Kill** (1980) starring Michael Caine and Angie Dickinson. Chiller about a psychotic killer stalking two women, one a prostitute, the other a bored housewife. Directed by Brian De Palma (60117)  
 2.45 **Antenna's Top Ten** introduced by Casey Kasem (1) (41490)  
 3.15 **Videofashion**. New York designers (1985/86) (985099)  
 3.40 **Quiz Night**. Pub and club quiz competition (2044525)  
 4.10 **Grand Ole Opry**. Country and western music from Nashville (4277099)  
 4.40 **Fifty Years On (b/w)**. Vintage newscasts (72579780)  
 5.00 **Three's Company**. American comedy series (55186)  
 5.30 **ITN Morning News** with Phil Roman (79693). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (7015704)  
 9.25 **Gopher** (1) (7459105)  
 9.55 **Get Smart**. Spoof spy series starring Don Adams (9586501)  
 10.25 **Film: She's Not There** (1935, b/w) starring Jack Hylton and his band. Musical comedy about a businessman who hires the musicians to perform on his cruiser and the efforts of a rival to sabotage the stunt. Directed by Leslie H. Hiscott (2845308)  
 11.55 **The Daisy**. Bulgarian animation (9945327)  
 12.00 **Land of Hope**. Australian drama series. The guests are Robin Williams and Whoopi Goldberg (1) (57018)  
 2.00 **Film: The Amazing Dr Clitterhouse** (1936, b/w) starring Edward G. Robinson, Humphrey Bogart and Claire Trevor. Offbeat gangster movie about a criminologist whose fascination with the subject leads to him joining a gang in order to gain an insight into the criminal mind. Directed by Anatole Litvak (38817)  
 3.35 **Between the Sheets**. A British Transport documentary about the flora and fauna of Britain's west coast (1) (9879211)  
 4.00 **In Search of Scotland's Larder**. Derek Cooper discovers how cheesemakers in south west Scotland put their surplus milk to good use (1) (388)  
 4.30 **Countdown**. Another round of the words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whiteley (1) (501)  
 5.00 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**. The guests are women who have chosen to marry men like their fathers (1) (2071143)  
 5.50 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon (620476)  
 6.00 **Kate and Allie**. Comedy series starring Susan Saint James and Jane Curtin as divorcees sharing a single parenthood and a Greenwich Village home. (Teletext) (766)  
 6.30 **A Different World**. American campus comedy (178)  
 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Dermot Murnaghan and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) (775476)  
 7.50 **Comment** (984766)  
 8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (51719)  
 8.30 **The World in a Garden**. The third of a four-part series about a flourishing Victorian garden at Biddulph Park, near Stoke-on-Trent. (Teletext) (51765)  
 9.00 **Out**. Gay and lesbian magazine series. In *Actions Speak Louder Than Words* deaf housewives explore myths surrounding deaf gay culture. In *Waters of Life* and *Death* with grief in the AIDS age is examined. (Teletext) (6143)  
 10.00 **The Golden Girls**. More delicious comedy from the four Miami matrons (24679)  
 10.30 **Absolutely**. Comedy sketch show starring Monique Banks, Jack Docherty, Moray Hunter, Gordon Kennedy, Peter Baker and John Sparkes (1). (Teletext) (5193872)



Godfather of soul: the best of James Brown (11.05pm)

- 11.05 **Molo Working**. A profile of soul singer James Brown (1) (625785)  
 11.30 **Sticky Moments on Tour** with Julian Clary. Game show (1) (734582)  
 12.20am **Four Nations: Hotel E**. Animation from Estonia (2790273)  
 12.50 **Film: In God We Trust** (1980) starring Mary McCormack, Richard Pryor and Wilford Brimley. A satire on organised religion in the United States. Directed by Mary McCormack (435029). Ends at 2.35

## SATellite

- SKY ONE**  
 ● Via the Astra and Marcomsat satellites  
 6.00am **Stargate** (22582) 6.30 **Mr Popper** (5728872) 6.45 **Playhouse** (5997037) 7.00 **The O'Jays** (22582) 7.30 **The Pyramids** (69209) 7.55 **Let's Make a Deal** (20940) 8.30 **The Bold and the Beautiful** (82230) 11.00 **The Young and the Restless** (56834) 12.00 **50 Shades of Grey** (11230) 1.00pm **E** (56205) 1.30 **Goodies** (56205) 2.30 **Another World** (22582) 3.45 **The Bill** (30940) 5.00 **Facts of Life** (9121) 5.30 **Diff'rent Strokes** (64148) 6.00 **The 24th Hour** (6327) 6.30 **E Street** (6739) 7.00 **7.30pm** (6563) 8.00 **Antarctica** (45211) 9.00 **Chances** (32147) 10.00 **Studs** (74211) 10.30 **Doctor** (32147) 11.00 **Studs** (74211) 11.30 **Doctor** (32147) 12.00 **Studs** (74211) 12.30 **Studs** (74211)

## SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Marcomsat satellites  
 6.00am **Surprise** (473872) 8.30 **Highline** (59521) 10.00 **Dayline** (38582) 10.30 **Fashion TV** (51510) 11.30 **Japan Business Today** (61852) 11.45 **Business Report** (396582) 12.30pm **Good Morning America** (17766) 1.30 **Good Morning America** (17766) 2.30 **World News** (22582) 3.45 **The Bill** (30940) 5.00 **Facts of Life** (9121) 5.30 **Diff'rent Strokes** (64148) 6.00 **The 24th Hour** (6327) 6.30 **E Street** (6739) 7.00 **7.30pm** (6563) 8.00 **Antarctica** (45211) 9.00 **Chances** (32147) 10.00 **Studs** (74211) 10.30 **Doctor** (32147) 11.00 **Studs** (74211) 11.30 **Doctor** (32147) 12.00 **Studs** (74211) 12.30 **Studs** (74211)

## SKY MOVIES

- Via the Astra and Marcomsat satellites  
 6.00am **Shogun** (51227) 7.00 **Shogun** (51227) 8.00 **Shogun** (51227) 9.00 **Shogun** (51227) 10.00 **Shogun** (51227) 11.00 **Shogun** (51227) 12.00 **Shogun** (51227)

## EUROSPORT

- Via the Astra satellite  
 6.00am **Olympic Club** (72320) 6.30 **Olympic Morning** (4308) 7.00 **Hold Horses** (4414) 8.00 **On the Edge** (7211) 9.30 **On the Edge** (7211) 10.00 **Reverie** (1989) 10.30 **Reverie** (1989) 11.00 **Reverie** (1989) 11.30 **Reverie** (1989) 12.00 **Reverie** (1989) 12.30 **Reverie** (1989) 1.00 **Reverie** (1989) 1.30 **Reverie** (1989) 1.45 **Reverie** (1989) 2.00 **Reverie** (1989) 2.15 **Reverie** (1989) 2.30 **Reverie** (1989) 2.45 **Reverie** (1989) 3.00 **Reverie** (1989) 3.15 **Reverie** (1989) 3.30 **Reverie** (1989) 3.45 **Reverie** (1989) 4.00 **Reverie** (1989) 4.15 **Reverie** (1989) 4.30 **Reverie** (1989) 4.45 **Reverie** (1989) 5.00 **Reverie** (1989) 5.15 **Reverie** (1989) 5.30 **Reverie** (1989) 5.45 **Reverie** (1989) 6.00 **Reverie** (1989) 6.15 **Reverie** (1989) 6.30 **Reverie** (1989) 6.45 **Reverie** (1989) 7.00 **Reverie** (1989) 7.15 **Reverie** (1989) 7.30 **Reverie** (1989) 7.45 **Reverie** (1989) 8.00 **Reverie** (1989) 8.15 **Reverie** (1989) 8.30 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